



MARCHEGIANA SOCIETY

of Chicago Heights

P.O. Box 1037 • Chicago Heights, IL 60411

Founded March 16, 1907

Dear Member,

In April of 2014, the Marchegiana Society of Chicago Heights was asked to become part of a fundraising effort to raise \$500,000 to establish a permanent professorship of Italian-American studies at Loyola University. With a \$5,000 donation, we became the FIRST club or individual to contribute to this effort. In the summer of 2018, Professor Carla Simonini was hired to head the program, the first of its kind at a midwestern university.

It is now our pleasure to host Professor Simonini at our membership dinner, Thursday May 9th, 6:00pm, at Balagio restaurant in Homewood. The cost is \$20 per person for a family style dinner with a cash bar. Couples and new members are encouraged to attend. Professor Simonini will discuss the program in Italian-American studies, and entertain any questions you may have. If you plan to attend, please contact any board member by May 1 to confirm your reservation or to purchase more tickets. Please come out and show your support for our club and this wonderful new program! We wish you Buona Pasqua and thank you for your participation!

Ron Lucarini, President

Carla A. Simonini received a BA from Amherst College, an MA in Comparative Literature from the University of Rhode Island and a Ph.D. in Italian Studies from Brown University. Her research interests include 20th century and contemporary Italian literature, theories and methodologies of second language acquisition and constructs of *italianità* in American and Italian American literature, which was the subject of her doctoral dissertation. She has taught at Brown University, the University of Rhode Island and Skidmore College. From 2010 to 2018, she was an associate professor of Italian at Youngstown State University, where she coordinated the Italian program and taught courses on Italian language, culture, and literature as well as courses on Italian American identity for the American Studies program, and on Italian American literature for the English Department. She is currently the founding director and endowed professor of a newly inaugurated interdisciplinary program at Loyola University Chicago serving as the Paul and Ann Rubino Professor in Italian-American Studies.