

February 24, 2021
“Spectacular Siena: The Pearl of Tuscany”
Speaker: Carol Jonson

Doors open at 11:00

Lecture at 11:30

Followed by luncheon

Audubon Country Club

Price \$49

Chairs: Nancy Petralia & Maryclaire Singer

Often called “The Pearl of Tuscany” or “The Manageable Florence,” Siena is a lovely city filled with beautiful churches, historic monuments, and incredible works of art. We will highlight some of the ground-breaking artists from the Late Middle Ages, the Renaissance and Baroque periods, whose works adorn the town hall and museum. We’ll step inside Siena’s “zebra striped” Duomo to see its treasures, including gorgeous marble floors which are completely uncovered for only a few weeks each fall.

Siena is also known for attracting thousands of visitors for the most famous of Italy’s many Palio horse races. The Palio di Siena has been held annually since 1656 and is rich in traditions which we will explore from the costumed Renaissance pageantry and the blessing of the horses at a special Mass *inside* the church, to the no-holds-barred race itself and the spirited – and very serious - rivalries among Siena’s 17 *contrade* or neighborhoods.





Carol Jonson

Carol Jonson (pronounced Joan-son), a Detroit-area native, holds bachelor's and master's degrees in English Literature from Wayne State University in Detroit and did post-graduate work at the University of Detroit in Medieval and Renaissance Literature. She minored in Humanities. She has been an adjunct faculty member at University of Detroit, Davenport University and Oakland Community College in Michigan, and at Hodges and Barry universities in Naples. She currently teaches with the Renaissance Academy, the lifelong learning program sponsored by Florida Gulf Coast University.

After a career of more than 30 years in marketing and communications for healthcare, social service and educational organizations, Carol retired and now lives full-time in Naples.

In addition to teaching with The Renaissance Academy, Carol has been a guest speaker for area organizations including, the Collier County and Fort Myers Public Libraries, the Italian Cultural Society, the Naples Italian American Foundation, The Colonial Dames of America, and The Interlochen Center for the Arts near Traverse City, Michigan.