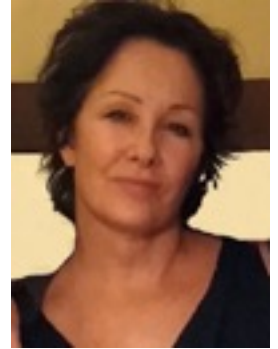


SPOTLIGHT *Carolyn Taylor*

Walking through my grandmother's birthplace home on the top of a mountain in Falerna, Italy was a major travel event in my life. Taking my dad 2 years before his death to experience that was the clincher. He was a 1st gen Italian and Italian chef for 50 years and had never been to Italy.



I'm a Jersey girl - my twin brother David and I were born in Atlantic City and about age 8, moved to my mom's hometown of Woodbury, NJ, about 15 minutes from South Philly and the Walt Whitman Bridge. Our father was an FBI (full-blooded Italian) and I recall many 1st-gen Italians in our youth in AC. Woodbury is an historic town founded in 1683 with all kinds of founding father landmarks. As a teenager, we would meet at National Park, where Washington landed when he crossed the Delaware. (Woodbury was the 1st city in the US to mandate recycling.) My high school still functions as one after 112 years and my mother was a cheerleader there in the 30's! I spent my summers in AC with my dad and a lot of time on the beach in my youth. I remember the heydays of AC. I lived on Arkansas Ave. (pronounced Ar-kan-sas if you're from AC), a block from the 500 Club where Sinatra, Martin and Lewis, Como and many other mid-century notables were billed. I have vivid memories of the fanfare - the music, the fashion, the cars.

As a young adult, I traveled 3 years across the US, Canada and Hawaii with my ex, on the road with his band, Quantrell. I was the seamstress and made several of their polyester, bell-bottomed jumpsuits. They played Chicago-type music in high-budget venues with several stints in Vegas, opening for BB King, Al Green, and the like. They were a well-known show band in the early 70's and were introduced to many stars, especially in Vegas. We partied with Blood, Sweat & Tears whenever the 2 bands were at nearby gigs. Being on the road 24/7 is hard, but I have so many fond memories and got to see the US extensively. When we decided to have a more normal life, Monte became a manager and agent of dozens of show bands and we settled in Pompano in 1975, and then moved to Central Florida in 76. I was in charge of the band's promo materials & choreographed many group's photo sessions.

I have 2 tall, handsome sons. Chris is a former Marine and now works as a cinematographer in Seattle and Eric is a local engineer recruiter in Maitland. I have a grandson through Eric and he's the cutest 3-year old ever! I have worked as a REALTOR since 1983. In my off time, I usually have something artistic going. My current passion is CBT Leathercraft and some of my bags can be seen on etsy.com. I adore cooking (my Dad was a sous chef), gardening and try to fit in some form of exercise everyday.

In 1987, I was a resident of Heathrow and Gilda Chacey - the HWC founder, asked me to be "hospitaliano". I served in several positions in the early days and was 3rd Prez in 1989-90. When I moved out of Heathrow during my presidency, the board voted to open the club to outside members. After many years, I re-joined the club in 2013 and brought my former REALTOR comrade Ginny with me (now our Prez). I have enjoyed participating where I'm needed; helping with and donating art for the gala, writing Spotlight articles, and contributing creatively. The rewards of membership are great. *"For it is in giving that we receive." Francis of Assisi*

BY CAROLYN TAYLOR