ONLINE SOCIAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS OVERVIEW

LORENZA PIERI PRESENTS HER NOVEL “IL GIARDINO DEI MOSTRI - THE GARDEN OF MONSTERS”
IN CONVERSATION WITH PROF. VIRGINIA JEWISS

Tuesday, May 25th, at 6:30pm at Lupo Verde Osteria Palisades
PROGRAM, RSVP & TICKETS HERE

NATIONAL CHAMBER ENSEMBLE: THE REMARKABLE FOUR SEASONS OF VIVALDI

Recording Saturday, May 22, 2021 (Link sent May 29th)
More info on the NCE website - Special discount for ICS members

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

The ICS event for May, 2021 will take place on Tuesday, May 25 at 6:30pm, not by Zoom but...live! Imagine that! Author Lorenza Pieri will be interviewed by Yale Prof. Virginia Jewiss about her novel Il Giardino dei Mostri (The Garden of Monsters.) The venue is DC’s Lupo Verde restaurant, and a maximum of 45 persons will be allowed, so make your reservations now! (Go to https://italianculturalsociety.org/events/ to find out more.) More about this novel can be found in this issue.

In case you missed our April 18th event which featured a performance and interview with Flamenco guitarist/composer Angela Centola, you can find more about it at https://italianculturalsociety.org/past-events/ and enjoy a video of the concert. You can also read more about it in this issue. Speaking of concerts, on May 12, Felicia Toscano and Gianpiero Antonazzo presented a fusion rock/classical guitar concert con aperitivo in the garden behind the Krieg/Casazza home as a fundraiser for the Society. It was a beautiful evening

and a joyful, first post-pandemic gathering for many of the ca. 30 people there.

This month, the ICS membership will be electing members to the Board of Directors, so please watch your email for the ballot. And, as always, please continue to enroll in our array of courses, music and other wonderful opportunities: https://italianculturalsociety.org/ilp/

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I have loved flamenco music since I heard it played on LPs by the likes of Sabicas and Carlos Montoya in the 1950s and ‘60s. (The great American “country” guitarist, Chet Atkins, talking about guitarists in general, told Guitar Player Magazine that “The finest technique around has got to be Sabicas, the flamenco player.”) Around the same time, I saw television shows featuring Jose Greco and his dance troupe, which helped me understand that flamenco embraced more than just fabulous guitar music: it included an exciting form of dance and a passionate form of singing.

But, as I recently discovered, I really didn’t know much about flamenco at all. In fact, it has a very turbulent history. Arising from the traditional culture of Andalusia in southern Spain, it has been invented and re-invented several times and buffeted (and abused) by the changing intellectual and political winds since it first emerged as a more or less distinct form in the late 19th century. Perhaps the earliest coherent manifestation occurs in 1881 when the flamenco singer and player Silverio Franconetti opened the first flamenco singer café in Seville. His parents were Nicolás Franconetti, born in Rome, and María de la Concepción Aguilar, born in Spain. (So, you see, there is even an Italian connection.)

Quoting a Wikipedia article: “In Silverio’s café the cantaores were in a very competitive environment, which allowed the emergence of the professional cantaor and served as a crucible where flamenco art was configured. In them Gitanos and non-Gitanos learned the cantes, while reinterpreted the Andalusian folk songs in their own style, expanding the repertoire. Likewise, the taste of the public contributed to configure the flamenco genre, unifying its technique and its theme.”

There is so much more to the story, and I refer the reader to learn more about it using on-line sources. By the time we arrive at the global star Paco de Lucia, what is considered flamenco music has changed markedly from the version I first heard, and it continues to evolve to this day, branching out to embrace many other instruments, and dance and singing styles. The one instantly recognizable constant is a music and art of peculiarly intense and passionate purity.

And that brings us to Angela Centola. You can find the entire program on YouTube. Our April 18th encounter with Angela opened with a beautifully performed original, hopeful piece, a gift, composed especially for the ICS, called
“Pandemia.” It continued with a panel conducting an interview in which Angela (speaking in Italian and ably translated into English by Annelise Brody), this very accomplished flamenco guitarist and composer (the first female professional in Italy), explicated flamenco’s various musical forms with video examples in which she performed her own compositions. The panel included guitarists ICS Musical School Director, Felicia Toscano, and Luigi Piccardi of Radio Vaticana. Over the course of an hour or so, we were treated to examples of “zambra”, “soleá”, “farruca”, “rumba”, and “milonga”. Interspersed were explanations of the history of the music. Finally, responding to questions, Angela told us what it was like to become a professional flamenco guitarist in this mostly male world of musicians. The afternoon closed with a brindisi led by Francesca Casazza in which we toasted Angela on the occasion of her birthday.

Thanks to all the people that participated in our fundraising event “Guitar Concert with Aperitivo at the Executive Director’s backyard”.

A special thanks goes to Felicia Toscano and Gianpiero Antonazzo, for their Pop and Brasilian music concert, to the amazing hosts Francesca Casazza and Geoff Krieg for their hospitality, and to Angela Maggi for the pictures that you can see above.

This concert originated from a donation for the online Auction, held in occasion of the ICS Gala 2020.
Per questo mese di Maggio, martedì 25, l’Italian Cultural Society ha deciso di fare un evento in Italiano.
Ospite della serata, Lorenza Pieri, che ritorna all’ICS per presentarci il suo nuovo libro “Il giardino dei mostri” reduce dalla candidatura al Premio Strega 2021. Lorenza, scrittrice e giornalista che si è trasferita a D.C. nel 2014, sarà in conversazione con la Professoressa Virginia Jewiss, Senior Lecturer in the Humanities e Direttrice del Yale Humanities program a Roma.

“Il giardino dei mostri” è la storia di due famiglie, i Biagini, contadini e butteri, e i Sanfilippi, membri della borghesia intellettuale romana, i cui destini si incrociano nella seconda metà degli anni Ottanta in Maremma, quando l’avvento della moda delle vacanze in campagna provoca uno scossonato ai rapporti sociali tradizionali.

Nel mezzo di questa natura selvaggia toscana, Lorenza Pieri ci porta all’interno di un'Italia che cambia. La protagonista del libro, Annamaria, incontra uno scossono ai rapporti sociali tradizionali.

Aprendo il giardino dei mostri, Lorenza Pieri ci porta all’interno di un'Italia che cambia. La protagonista del libro, Annamaria, incontra la scultrice Niki de Saint-Phalle, impegnata a realizzare il suo sogno artistico su una collina del luogo. In lei la protagonista riesce a trovare una guida, qualcuno in grado di farle capire che i mostri a cui fa riferimento il titolo non sono soltanto le gigantesche sculture che abitano del parco, ma sono principalmente quelli che uccidono l’innocenza.

Un romanzo avvincente, che vede intrecciarsi i personaggi con la vita reale dell’eclettica artista. Vi aspettiamo dunque per l’evento culturale di Maggio, questa volta in persona, al Lupo Verde Osteria per una discussione letteraria seguita da buon cibo autentico italiano, per chi ne è interessato. Per informazioni e biglietti, potete consultare il nostro sito.

Se vi interessa conoscere di più sul parco che ha ispirato questo libro potete andare a pagina 9 del Poche Parole.
The Italian Cultural Society is pleased to offer awards for students who excel in the study of Italian language, Classics, Music, Science, Arts. In particular:

**Italian Language - High School Students: Maria Guerrera Wilmeth Award**
Honors 2 students in schools where Italian is part of the curriculum.  
[Learn details on how to apply here.](#)

**Italian Language – Middle and Elementary Students: Maura Guida Maffia Award**
Prizes one student of any school who wants to apply to win a free annual course at the ICS Italian Language Program.  
[Learn details on how to apply here](#).

**Italian Language – University level: Cesarina Horing Award**
*(no application! Students have been selected by professors of the Italian department in Georgetown University, University of Maryland, Catholic University, George Mason University, American University and George Washington University)*

**Classics: The Elena and Antonio De Luca Award**
honors one university student who has excelled in the study of Latin and/or Greek.  
[Learn details on how to apply here](#).

**Musics: The Luciana Montanari-Mendola Awards**
Honors one university or conservatory student showing promise in piano performance, and one high-school age pianist showing promise in piano performance.  
[Learn details on how to apply here](#).

**Science: The Young Scientist Award**
Recognizes the accomplishments of Italian national scientists working in the Washington area as a doctoral student or as a post-doctoral student or an equivalent (e.g., in connection with NIH, NIST or with NASA or a university) in the physical, biological or medical sciences, mathematics, or engineering.  
[Learn details on how to apply here](#).

**Art: The Patricia Segnan Award**
Prizes a university student who has excelled in the creation of Art or the study of Art and Art History.  
[Learn details on how to apply here](#).
REPORT OF THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM
BY FRANCESCA CASAZZA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are working on our Summer term schedule, starting June 21st. During this Summer, besides the 5 week review courses for all levels that we usually offer, we are organizing a new TWO WEEK INTENSIVE PROGRAM: Monday to Friday, up to 4.5 hours per day: two hours either on Zoom or at the ICS + 1 hour at a restaurant + one extra hour either on Zoom or at the ICS. The first two hours are for everyone, then students can choose to add two hours at the restaurant and/or one hour after lunch. The restaurant sessions accept daily drop-ins, for those that want to join the conversation-focused part. So, for those of you who are not traveling to Italy in June, we are offering an immersion experience, similar to studying in Italy. We will offer four levels of this Intensive program based on your requests. We hope you will enjoy this opportunity to enrich your culture and language skills, and to be part of our welcoming community. The Immersion course for travelers will take place the weekend of June 26-27.

For those of you going to Italy, please find recommendations on our webpage Courses for travelers/Study abroad.

Carlo Ellena’s fun courses DISCOVER ITALIAN WINE: HISTORY AND TASTING will continue on Friday at 5:00pmET – a great occasion to kick off the weekend. On Saturdays, he is teaching EXPLORING ITALY’S REGIONAL FOOD & WINES, a virtual tour guide through 12 regions of Italy to discover the distinct histories of traditional food and wine of each region (in English – drop-ins allowed) and DISCOVER LIGURIA: history, food and wine (Italian/English - drop-ins allowed) 3 weeks: June 5, 12, 19. DISCOVER SARDEGNA with Laura Loddo starts May 17th, and her next COOKING CLASS will be on June 11th.

LATIN 1 SUMMER IMMERSION will be offered for adults and teens. The week of August 23rd by Prof. Annelise Brody Morani. Starting on June 21st, for kids and teenagers, we are planning six weeks of SUMMER CAMPS, in person again! Every day focuses on a theme: HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, MUSIC, COOKING, SCIENCE, ART and more. From Leonardo Da Vinci, to Dante Alighieri, every summer, each day of the camp is a cultural experience!

This year, we will have more outdoor activities, possibly including a day at the National Gallery of Art, or at the Zoo, or at the Museum of Natural History.

We are following the CDC and Montgomery County guidelines to offer a safe environment for all campers. Our next issue of Poche Parole will be released in September. Please follow us on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter this summer!

All the best for a healthy and active summer,

Francesca Casazza,
Executive Director

THE ICS RECOMMENDED TRIPS
CHECK OUT OUR PAGE FOR TRAVELERS

On April 18th, The ICS had the pleasure to connect with Emanuela Raggio, from Beautiful Liguria, and Laura Marchese from SolArt Rooms Trani, who shared some information about our recommended trips to Liguria, Piemonte, Toscana, Emilia Romagna and Puglia.

If you are interested to travel to Italy this summer, feel free to email us if you have questions, and we will be happy to put you in contact with them.

If you missed this section and you want to watch it, you can do it on our YouTube channel.

More information about the Trips on our website.
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Aristide Aly Boyarm, Managing Partner AfricaCRM&SI
Irene Finauci, Course director of Management and Computer Science, Luiss University
Vincenzo Giardina, journalist, head of foreign affairs editorial board at Dire News Agency

Closing remarks by Marco Francesco Mazzà Recruiting Leader and Professor of Marketing & Digital, Luiss University

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Dates
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<th>21st June</th>
<th>25th June</th>
<th>19th July</th>
<th>23rd July</th>
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Teaching modality
| On campus or online | Only on campus |

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Il Giardino dei Tarocchi

Quando pensiamo alla Toscana, vengono in mente tante cose, in primis la sua pittoresca campagna, i cipressi, gli agriturismi, le aziende vinicole e le meravigliose città d’arte come Firenze e Pisa, per citarne giusto un paio. Questa è la bella Toscana che conosciamo tutti e che tutti amiamo. Qualche estate fa ho avuto la fortuna di scoprire qualcosa di nuovo, di colorato, di misterioso e di affascinante nella bassa Toscana: Il Giardino dei Tarocchi.


L’ubicazione del giardino è di per sé interessante. Un po’ nel mezzo del nulla, su una piccola collinetta dalla natura un po’ selvaggia, l’occhio del visitatore è immediatamente attratto dall’esplosione di colori e materiali diversi usati per la creazione delle statue. Tali statue sono non solo da ammirare in tutta la loro bellezza e maestosità ma possono essere esplorate e “vissute”, in quanto vuote all’interno. E così le statue diventano dimora e il visitatore si perde all’interno di queste meravigliose strutture, catturato dai colori, dalle immagini riflesse nei mille specchietti frantumati, dalle murrine, dalle scritte, dai simboli e in generale da tutti i significati allegorici e esoterici di cui il giardino è ricco. Dunque arte e architettura si fondono meravigliosamente. Ho visitato il giardino con mia madre e mia figlia e tutte e tre le generazioni si sono perse piacevolmente nel parco alla ricerca di nuovi colori e di nuove sorprese. Una meta, dunque, adatta a tutti.

Il giardino dei Tarocchi è un’opera unica che offre un’esperienza visiva totalizzante. Se siete in Toscana o state programmando un viaggio in Toscana, vale davvero la pena mettere questa tappa in programma. Il MOMA, fino al 6 Settembre, avra’ un esibizione dedicata a Niki De Saint Phalle dal titolo “structures for life”.

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When we think of Tuscany, many things come to mind, first of all, its picturesque countryside, all its cypresses, the “agriturismi”, the wineries, and the marvelous cities full of art and artworks such as Florence and Pisa, to mention just a couple. This is the beautiful Tuscany we all know and love. Last Summer I was lucky to explore something new, something colorful, mysterious and fascinating in the Southern part of Tuscany: The Tarot Garden.

The Tarot Garden is an artistic park in Garavicchio, in the province of Grosseto, in Tuscany. The park is an idea and creation of French-American artist Niki de Saint Phalle and is populated by statues decorated in the artist’s typical mosaic style; it is the case of twenty-two monumental sculptures that represent the great mysteries of the Tarot cards, such as The High Priestess, The Magician, The Pope, The Empress, Temperance, The World, The Hermit, Death and so on. Inspired by a visit to Gaudì’s Parque Guell in Barcelona, followed by a visit to The Park of Monsters in Bomarzo, Umbria, Niki de Saint Phalle started working on the Tarot Garden in 1979, a project that will keep her busy for more than seventeen years, working together with an équipe of famous contemporary artists.

The location of the garden is in itself quite peculiar. In the middle of nowhere, on a wild hill, the visitor’s eye is immediately attracted by an explosion of colors and different materials used for the sculptures. Such sculptures are not only to be admired for their beauty and majesty, but can also be explored and “lived” as they are empty inside. Thus the sculptures become an abode and the visitor gets lost in their wonderful structures, captured by the colors, all the images reflected in the thousands of small pieces of mirrors, the murrine, the quotes, the symbols and all the hidden allegorical and esoteric references of which the park is full. Thus art and architecture melt wonderfully into one another. I visited the garden with my mother and daughter and all three generations enjoyed getting lost in the park looking for more colors and surprises. Therefore, an enjoyable destination for everybody.

ADDIO A FRANCO BATTIATO, CANTAUTORE FILOSOFO DEL POP

Si è spento la mattina del 18 Maggio, nella sua casa a Milo, nel Catanese, Franco Battiato, cantautore che è stato certamente uno dei nomi più famosi della musica italiana.

Sperimentatore di stili, Battiato ha approfondito e combinato tra loro generi musicali in modo eclettico e personale: dopo l’iniziale fase pop degli anni sessanta, è passato al rock progressivo e all’avanguardia colta nel decennio seguente. Successivamente, è ritornato sui passi della musica leggera approfondendo anche la canzone d’autore. E poi la musica etnica, quella elettronica e l’opera lirica.

Da tempo Battiato era assente dalle scene musicali ed artistiche. Nel 2017 un incidente domestico lo ha constretto a rifugiarsi nella sua villa alle pendici dell’Etna, circondato dai suoi familiari.

Per molti rimarrà un “Centro di gravità permanente”, come recita uno dei suoi brani più famosi, e la sua morte lascia un vuoto incolmabile nella musica del Bel Paese, a cui ha regalato brani indimenticabili come “La cura”, “Voglio vederti danzare” o “Bandiera Bianca”.

THE TAROT GARDEN
BY VALENTINA ASCIUTTI, ICS INSTRUCTOR

The Tarot Garden is an artistic park in Garavicchio, in the province of Grosseto, in Tuscany. The park is an idea and creation of French-American artist Niki de Saint Phalle and is populated by statues decorated in the artist’s typical mosaic style; it is the case of twenty-two monumental sculptures that represent the great mysteries of the Tarot cards, such as The High Priestess, The Magician, The Pope, The Empress, Temperance, The World, The Hermit, Death and so on. Inspired by a visit to Gaudì’s Parque Guell in Barcelona, followed by a visit to The Park of Monsters in Bomarzo, Umbria, Niki de Saint Phalle started working on the Tarot Garden in 1979, a project that will keep her busy for more than seventeen years, working together with an équipe of famous contemporary artists.
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<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$10,000+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>