Dear Members,

April is quickly moving forward with a plethora of activities for our members.

On April 1st, we collaborated with AFI Silver Theater for the screening of La dolce vita, providing an Italian style aperitivo, thanks to our generous sponsor CAMPARI. In April 14th, we collaborated with the Kennedy Center, in promoting Leonardissimo!, a stunning multimedia presentation about Leonardo da Vinci and his obsession with water. ICS members benefitted from a 20% discount. The show was lively conducted by no one other than Walter Isaacson, celebrated author of the New York Times #1 best seller on Leonardo da Vinci. Astrophysicist Mario Livio as well as art historian Francesca Fiorani beautifully connected Leonardo’s work and its relevance to our present lines of investigation. Artist Roberto Fabelo showed the influence of Leonardo's paintings in contemporary art. Leonardo's inquisitive mind and respectful approach to questioning nature in his love for water, holds a lesson of harmonious coexistence with nature today.

What better month than Spring to take a stroll at the National Art Gallery? I will be leading two tours, one in Italian and one in English on Sunday April 16th on portraits in the Italian collection.

Our monthly aperitivo is coming up on Friday, April 21st from 6:30-8:00 pm. This is a fabulous and friendly opportunity to meet other Italians and passionate Italian enthusiasts, try your Italian conversational skills and enjoy Italian appetizers and Spritz.

We are also proud to announce a new collaboration with the Washington DC Jewish Film and Music Festival, featuring the screening of two movies centering on Italian stories and culture: The Shadow of the Day by Giuseppe Piccioni and Where Life begins by Stephanie Freiss. You can find more info on this exciting event on our website.

Finally I am happy to announce that our annual trip to Italy is going to take place this year between Tuscany and Emilia Romagna for the joy of the foodies among you. We might have a few more spots left if anyone wishes to join in. I am very much looking forward to accompanying this year's group and sharing my knowledge of my native region.

Ladies and Gentlemen, mark your date for our annual gala, whose very special honorary guest we will announce in the next issue of Poche Parole.

For an exceptional honorary guest, we changed the date to October 18th. We are beyond excited and our gala committee is hard at work.

Happy Spring!

Annelise Brody Morani
Chair of the ICS Board of Directors
Dear Friends,

Spring term just started with plenty of courses for all levels and students are still in time to join. Beginners, Elementary, Intermediate, Lunch time Conversation, Advanced courses and others in English and in Italian, including Latin and Yoga in Italiano (from your home or at the park, for this season!). The upcoming Cooking classes, at the end of the month, will cover Ligurian, Neapolitan and Apulian Cuisine.

Stay tuned for the Summer schedule, which is going to be online very soon. We will offer again a TWO WEEK INTENSIVE SUMMER PROGRAM, for those of you who want to learn or improve quickly, maybe before your summer trip! Finally, Weekend Immersion courses for travelers are on June 24-25 • August 19–20.

For your children, you can plan your next workshop/parents night out “La festa della mamma”, and one or more weeks of Summer Camps with Maestra Fiorenza and a new Instructor.

Courses for Travelers and for those simply interested in a virtual tour in specific regions: Discover Liguria: May 20 - 26 – June 3 Discover Veneto: May 16 – 23 - 30 to discover geography, art and history, traditional food and wine of each place. In English and including some Italian, depending on the audience.

For the next cultural events and Gala, stay tuned...on our website and social media!

Happy Spring!

Francesca Casazza
CEO & Executive Director

INTERESTED IN PROMOTING ITALIAN CULTURE AND LANGUAGE?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE INVOLVED IN OUR ORGANIZATION?

PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU WISH TO BE PART OF OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS, SENDING YOUR CV, MOTIVATION LETTER AND WE WILL CONSIDER YOUR APPLICATION.

ELECTION WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE BEGINNING OF MAY.

Venerdì 17 marzo abbiamo preparato il lavoretto per la Festa del papà, il bigliettino e le zeppole al kids evening workshop serale con tanto di pizza casalinga, frutta e verdura fresca, ma soprattutto con tanto divertimento, risate e voglia di imparare. San Giuseppe in Italia, il 19 marzo, è la Festa del papà, invece negli Stati Uniti il papà si festeggia a giugno. Le Zeppole in Italia, sono il dolce tipico della festa, ciambelle cotte al forno, decorate con crema pasticcera ed un’amarena, mhhh che bontà! Grazie alla mamma di Alice e Nicolò per averle preparate. Che bello mantenere le tradizioni e lo stare insieme a scuola anche il venerdì sera. Vi aspetto per il prossimo laboratorio “La festa della mamma”, venerdì 12 maggio 2023: https://italianculturalsociety.org/kids-teens/

By Fiorenza Castelli, Workshop and Summer Camp Coordinator

The Italian Cultural Society of Washington D.C.
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APRIL EVENTS: LA DOLCE LITA ALL’AFI SILVER THEATER

Two screenings of La Dolce Vita, by Federico Fellini

We thank our sponsor CAMPARI for offering Aperol Spritz for an Italian style aperitivo in between the 2 screenings

A big success with over 300 people filling up the theater!
APRIL EVENTS: BOOK PRESENTATION

THE BETROTHED – MICHAEL MOORE PRESENTS HIS TRANSLATION OF ALESSANDRO MANZONI’S “I PROMESSI SPOSI”, IN CONVERSATION WITH FEDERICA DEIGAN


I was honored to sit down with Dr. Moore for a conversation that was highlighted Manzoni’s novel for the attentive and numerous members of the audience who followed the event either in person, in the ICS ‘great room,’ or online. Behind us was the projected image of the volume’s cover, featuring the two antithetical female characters chosen by Moore and his team to complement the title of the novel in translation, The Betrothed (published by Penguin Random House’s Modern Library in 2022): Lucia, the bride-to-be, and Gertrude, the nun from Monza. The images are a reproduction of the original drawings by Francesco Gonin, the artist whom Manzoni tasked with illustrating his novel for the Tuscan-language edition of 1840. Dr. Moore said that in designing the volume’s cover he and his team aimed for an ‘Andy Warhol effect.’ And sure enough, the book’s cover, just like the translation itself, admirably succeeds in reaching out to us who read and reread Manzoni’s novel in 2023, exactly two hundred years after the completion of the novel’s first version (Fermo e Lucia, 1823), almost two centuries after the great success it immediately achieved upon publication in 1827.

In translating the PS, Dr. Moore accomplished the mission of staying close to the original while making the American reader’s experience smooth sailing from start to finish, especially through a skillful work on the novel’s syntax -- the most praiseworthy trait of Moore’s translation. This is the main difference with the translation, equally commendable, copyrighted by Bruce Penman in 1972 and available in the Penguin Classics series. Unlike his immediate predecessor’s English, a bit bookish and British-sounding, Moore’s English is vivid, replete with the expressions we use every day in our colorful American idiom.

During our conversation, Dr. Moore even ‘defended’ the readability of Manzoni’s famous description of Lake Como with which the novel opens. I, on the other hand, recommended, as I always do -- even after the nimbler translation of it that Moore gave us -- that the reader move quickly past such description to start paying full attention from the sixth paragraph of the novel, where we meet the central character, the priest Don Abbondio, soon to be confronted by the thugs sent by the local lord to bar the marriage of the betrothed, Renzo and Lucia. I joked that Dr. Moore appreciated so much the traditional detailed description (ekphrasis is the technical word) of Lake Como’s landscape because the translator, like the author, knew the picturesque place first-hand, Moore having lived on Lake Como for some time in the 1990s. But for all those who have not been fortunate enough to travel to Lake Como (myself included), the novel really begins at the sixth paragraph, after which it becomes a page-turner, guaranteed. Many scholars have wondered how many readers Manzoni must have lost because of the lengthy famous description set up almost as a screening test at the novel’s doorstep (a Manzonian expedition to Lake Como by ICS members might be in the making... stay tuned).

Among other things, I heartily thanked Dr. Moore for his translation because one of its perhaps unintended consequences has been to revive interest and appreciation for Manzoni in the author’s very homeland, Italy. All the main newspapers there lavishly praised Moore’s translation and, accordingly, Manzoni’s masterpiece. If the Americans like it so much, the argument goes, maybe we Italians should give a second look ourselves to this book that yes, is mandatory reading in the second year of high school but is actually never read as one would read a book, say, for a book club discussion. As a result, the PS sounds boring to students who are urged to admire, one chapter at a time, characters and scenes in isolation, oftentimes with traditional commentaries that may not be attuned with the sensitivity of the young.

My hope is that the March 19th event at the ICS, together with the many similar events that Dr. Moore’s translation has occasioned here in the US and around the world (also in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of Manzoni’s death, this year) will spark a veritable Manzonian renaissance, one that is greatly needed for Italians and lovers of Italian things. A deeper awareness of Italian history and Italian national identity can be gained through reading historical fiction. This was indeed a cause that was dear to the heart of Manzoni and his fellow Romantics, as well as to the heart of a lesser-known novelist, Manzoni’s son-in-law, Massimo D’Azeglio.

Under the eyes of modest Lucia and the jaded nun from Monza, we had a great afternoon at the ICS, feasting on Manzoni and his world. I for one sensed a keen interest and sincere appreciation by all people in attendance. I look forward to future occasions at the ICS to further explore Manzoni’s works, either in Italian or in translation, or both.
UPCOMING EVENTS: THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
TWO GUIDED TOURS AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART WITH PROF. ANNELISE BRODY MORANI

Ritrattistica / Portraits

April 16th, 2023

Annelise will lead two tours, one in English and one in Italian. She will show you portraiture evolution among Italian painters, introduce the authors and explain the various function of the portraits they created.

FRIDAY NIGHT APERITIVO AT THE ICS!
ENJOY APEROL SPRITZ & “STUZZICHINI” WHILE CHATTING WITH NATIVE ITALIAN INSTRUCTORS/STAFF

Friday, April 21st, from 6:30 to 8:00pm at the ICS (4833 Rugby Ave., Suite #201 Bethesda, MD 20814)

Passaparola (spread the word) con amici e conoscenti che vogliono conversare in Italiano. Non preoccuparti se sei “beginner level”, unisciti a noi per un autentico aperitivo italiano del venerdì sera. Ne faremo uno o due al mese!

A minimum of 10 people are required for this event to take place. Please RSVP by Thursday, April 20th at 4pm. Must be 21 to attend.
The ICS is proud to collaborate with Edlavitch DC Jewish Community Center in promoting JxJ’s Film and Music Festival!

This year, JxJ is featuring the screening of two films centering on Italian creatives, stories, and culture:

**The Shadow of the Day**  
Dir. Giuseppe Piccioni | 125 min Narrative | Italy | 125 – Italian with English subtitles  
A dramatic love story set during World War II between Luciano (Riccardo Scarmarcio), a respected restauranteur, and Anna (Benedetta Porcaroli), an out-of-town woman looking for work.  
“It’s an understated study of live and survival...all of the characters draw you fully into their world, and I didn’t want the film to end.” –Alexis Dallas, Brisbanista, Australia

**Where Life Begins**  
Dir. Stéphane Freiss | 100 min Narrative | France, Italy | 2022 – Italian, French with English subtitles  
An ultra-orthodox Jewish family comes to a farm in Calabria every year to carry out a sacred mission: harvesting citrons for the Jewish holiday of Sukkot. It is here that Elio, the farm owner, meets Esther, the rabbi’s daughter, both of whom feel trapped in their circumstances. A tender, bittersweet film that helps the audience realize the importance of following your own path.

ICS members are entitled to $3 tickets to the screenings (please call our office or email us at ics.eventi@italianculturalsociety.org to get promo code)

Screening followed by a conversation with Director Giuseppe Piccioni.

Sunday, May 14 at 7:30 PM, at the Edlavitch DCJCC, and  
Monday, May 15, at 8:00 PM, at Bethesda Row Cinema.

Saturday, May 13 at 8:30 PM, at the Edlavitch DCJCC, and  
Tuesday, May 16, at 7:30 PM, at Bethesda Row Cinema.

Sebbene sia risaputo che Leonardo era un figlio bastardo, l’identità di sua madre rimase oggetto di discussioni. Sia come sia, mi pare che la bellezza del romanzo di Carlo Vecce giaccia nel fatto che attraverso le storie intrecciate di diversi narratori Vecce racconta la vita di Caterina dalla nascita e infanzia nelle montagne del Caucaso, la sua cattura dai tartari, la sua vendita e il suo lungo viaggio in una galea veneziana prima a Costantinopoli e dopo a Venezia e a Firenze dove serve come schiava domestica fino alla sua emancipazione nello stesso anno della nascita di Leonardo. Il romanzo ha tredici capitoli e ciascuno racconta una storia diversa, cominciando da quella dei guerrieri circassi, seguono le storie dei mercanti veneziani e genovesi coinvolti nel traffico di schiavi, delle galee che li portavano a Venezia e a Genova navigando per il Mar Nero e il Mediterraneo, della vita quotidiana nel Quattrocento tanto a Costantinopoli come a Venezia e a Firenze. Nel capitolo dodici, Vecce fa raccontare proprio a Leonardo le vicende della sua infanzia insieme a Caterina e finalmente nel capitolo tredici intitolato “Io” c’è proprio Vecce che racconta come è arrivato alla conclusione che Caterina fu la madre di Leonardo. Insomma, un libro lungo e complesso con bellissime descrizioni di paesaggi e personaggi che mi pare sarebbe di lettura molto piacevole per tutti quelli interessati nella vita di Leonardo da Vinci e a quella dei suoi contemporanei nel bacino del Mediterraneo.
THE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM

Each year the Italian Cultural Society provides the following awards made possible through donations and fundraising events. We need your help to increase the amounts of these awards. In addition, if a donor wishes, ICS can create and name a new award, perhaps as a memorial or to honor a cause. To make a donation, please contact our office, 301-215-7885. The Italian Cultural Society of Washington, D.C. is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. All donations to ICS are 100% tax deductible.

* The Maria Guarrera Wilmeth Awards*: two awards of $500 each for outstanding Washington metropolitan area high-school students of a public school in which the Italian language is part of the curriculum. To apply: Applicants must write a letter in their own hand, which includes a short biographical presentation and saying why they are studying Italian; a letter of recommendation, a creative video of 2 to 3 minutes, in which the student (or a group of 2, or 3 students maximum - who will share the award -$200 each, if 3 students) speak in Italian: acting, talking in Italian about themselves, cooking, or presenting a subject of their choice. The winners are invited at the Gala at the Embassy (this year on October 18th,) to accept the award.

* The Maura Guida Maffia Award for elementary or middle school students* interested in taking one of our courses of the ICS Italian Language Program for free. To apply: Applicants must write a letter in their own hand saying which course they would like to take and why. A letter of support of the student's motivation from a parent and a letter from the child's school teacher, attesting to the student's academic ability, must also be provided.

* Other Awards for students who have not reached their 31st birthday by May 1 (except for the Young Scientist award - 36):

1. The Elena and Antonio De Luca Award: one $1000 award to be given to a university student who has excelled in the study of Latin and/or Greek.

2. The Luciana Montanari-Mendola Awards: one $1000 award for a university or conservatory student showing promise in piano performance, and one $500 award for a high-school age pianist showing promise in piano performance. Examples of recordings must accompany your application and must include one piece for solo piano by Frederick Chopin.

3. The Patricia Segnan Award: one $1000 award to be given to a university student who has excelled in the creation of Art or the study of Art and Art History.

4. The Young Scientist Award: The Italian Cultural Society is pleased to recognize the accomplishments of Italian scientists working in the Washington area. A $1,500 award is to be given to an Italian national working in the Washington area as a doctoral student or as a post-doctoral student or equivalent (e.g., in connection with NIH, NIST or with NASA or a university) in the physical, biological or medical sciences, mathematics, or engineering. The applicant must give evidence of having distinguished him/herself in research while working in the United States. Applicants should not have reached their 36th birthday by May 1, 2023. Materials to be included in the application for the Young Scientist Award are: - A document verifying the Italian (or American) university degree held by the applicant - A cover letter in English or Italian describing why the candidate is a valid contender for the award - A short biographical presentation of the candidate (curriculum vitae) - Three letters of recommendation from superiors knowledgeable with the work of the applicant, at least one from an American. - Evidence of excellence of work in the U.S., e.g., list of publications, patents, or other equivalent documents.

The deadline date for the application is Monday May 29th, 2023. Applications should be sent to: Awards Committee The Italian Cultural Society 4833 Rugby Ave., Suite #201 Bethesda, MD 20814. Selection will occur during the end of April/first week of May and awards will be presented at the ICS Awards Gala, which takes place on October 18th, this year.

* The Cesarina Horing Awards to students of Italian at universities in the Washington, DC area: One student from each of Georgetown University, The University of Maryland, and Catholic University, all of which have Italian Major programs, will be eligible for awards of $600; and one student from each of George Washington, American, and George Mason Universities, each of which have an Italian Minor program will be eligible for an award of $400. The awardees are selected by the Departments of Italian at these universities. The awards are funded by donations in honor of former ILP director, Cesarina Horing.
ABOUT POCHE PAROLE

Poche Parole is published each month from September through May. Deadline for ad and article submissions is the 22nd of the month preceding publication of the issue. Please send submissions to ICS.Eventi@italianculturalsociety.org. Advertisers appearing in Poche Parole have paid a fee. Publication of any advertisement in Poche Parole does not reflect ICS endorsement or guarantee of the advertiser’s services, products or statements. Material contained in articles is the sole responsibility of the author and does not indicate ICS endorsement.

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ABOUT ICS

The Italian Cultural Society of Washington D.C. (ICS) is your home for cultural and social events in the Washington metropolitan area, and for courses to learn or improve your Italian. Our community is growing and involving the entire US.

OUR MISSION

The Italian Cultural Society promotes the appreciation and knowledge of the Italian language and culture by creating opportunities through language programs, cultural events, and partnerships.

OUR HISTORY

Founded in 1953 by Professor Salvatore J. Castiglione, Chairman of the Italian Department of Georgetown University, the Society launched its Italian Language Program in 1974, with contribution of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

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