This year marked the Embassy of Italy's second annual Easter Egg Hunt at Villa Firenze, residence of the Italian ambassador Mariangela Zappia. The ICS children and parents alike had a wonderful time celebrating Italian language and culture together, surrounded by happiness and love.

On April 15th, the crowd gathered at Villa Firenze's luscious lawn to celebrate the novel Easter tradition that began last year thanks to collaborative efforts between the Italian Cultural Society, the Embassy of Italy, the American Italian Food Coalition (AIFC) and Ferrero. While the event was moved from April 1st due to dangerous weather conditions, bright sunlight and a wonderful climate welcomed the Egg Hunt guests. The crowd listened attentively to Ambassador Zappia's welcoming remarks; she was moved to discuss the importance of tradition and strengthening the bond between the United States and Italy: “Fundamentally it is about being together, having our kids share one of our most beautiful traditions. This is because we are so close to one another, as people, as countries, and as institutions. This is just one symbol of how much this friendship means to us.”

Afterwards, AIFC co-chair Susan Molinari highlighted the importance of the event for a charitable cause – supporting children's health and advancements in medical research. She expressed her gratitude to the attendees for partaking and contributing to such a wonderful initiative. Then, ICS Executive Director and CEO Francesca Casazza also expressed her gratitude to everyone for supporting a local children's charity and its research on trauma and the negative health impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences. She also thanked Ferrero and Kinder Joy of Moving, who provided delicious Italian chocolate and fun games and activities meant to stimulate early brain development and health. After the opening remarks, the children lined up on the lawn and awaited the countdown to begin the Egg Hunt. “Pronti... partenza... via!” – and they began running around, filling their baskets with tons and tons of delicious Kinder eggs.

The crowd also indulged in plenty of delicious pizzas, both savory and sweet, courtesy of the Italian embassy. Children and parents alike enjoyed various games sponsored by the ICS, including egg decorating and other arts and crafts. Maestra Fiorenza Castelli also gathered the children around for story time, featuring plenty of Pasqua and Spring books! The children had a wonderful time listening to stories and blowing bubbles under the warm, Washington sun. When it was finally time to say goodbye and depart, the children were gifted with Ferrero goodie bags with even more chocolate, and a stuffed animal friend. Parents were instead gifted a box of Ferrero Rocher chocolates, a must-have commodity in every household!

Proceeds from this remarkable event benefit the Center for the Advancement of Innovative Health Practices Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative at JHSPH and their research on the relational experiences of children. After the Children's Hospital Association generously matched existing donations, for a total of almost $20,000 raised to support the noteworthy initiative. The ICS would like to thank the Embassy of Italy, Ferrero, Kinder, and AIFC for collaborating to make this event possible - we cannot wait until next year!
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Dear ICS Friends,

May is going to be another month rich of events: The European Embassy Open House on May 13th and movies, in collaboration with the J&J DC Jewish Film and Music Festival: *The Shadow of the Day* (see following article), and *Where Life begins* by Stéphanie Freiss, the story of an ultra-orthodox Jewish family coming 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.

Our partnership with AFI Silver Theater will continue, on Saturday, May 27th at 6:45 p.m. with Dino Risi’s *Il sorpasso*. This ultimate Italian road comedy stars the unlikely pair of Vittorio Gassman and Jean-Louis Trintignant as, respectively, a waggish, freewheeling bachelor and the straitlaced law student he takes on a madcap trip from Rome to Tuscany. A wildly entertaining commentary on the pleasures and consequences of the good life, *Il sorpasso* is so fresh and exciting that one can easily see why it has long been adored in Italy. You can purchase tickets directly from our website.

Our next Friday aperitivo will take place on Tuesday June 13th, 6:30-8:30pm on the terrace of the nearby boutique Bacall & Bogie. It is always an excellent opportunity to practice your Italian conversational skills among friends and with some of our teachers as well. It will be a special get-together before the summer.

On Sunday May 21st, 1:00-4:00 pm, we inaugurated a book fair on our premises in Bethesda. If you always wished to add a few more books in Italian or of Italian authors in translation to your collection or to your library, this event is for you. Our books are in like new condition or gently used and priced just right for you to take home a few or a few bags. The sale continues on Monday through Friday 9:30-4:30 pm, or when you come to class. Choose your books and give the checks or exact cash to your teacher or Lucy. Books are priced $10, $15 or $20 with a few $5 bargains. It is a fundraising opportunity for our organization.

During Summer, we will have two weeks of Latin intensive (hybrid and online) for those who wish to explore Latin language and the ancient Roman civilization. On this note and with a look at the Fall, I am pleased to announce the opening of the CLP, the Classical Language Program which will run in parallel with the already consolidated ILP, Italian Language Program. We are fortunate to have fantastic Italian teachers with a degree in classics and we are proud to continue the offerings of Latin with the new addition of Ancient Greek. Moreover, there will be courses on history and art of ancient Rome and Ancient Greece. We are looking forward to welcoming all the classic world lovers into our classes this Fall.

To conclude this plethora of Italian related events, with much anticipation and excitement, I am happy to announce that our team is working on the Gala 2023, for which the honorary guest will be the star architect, Stefano Boeri.

Mark your calendar and bring your family and friends to our best event yet.

ICS Members received an email to confirm current and elect new Board Members, as every year. Among the new candidates, I have the pleasure to introduce you to Camila Acquista who will join the Board and we are looking forward to electing her as our new Secretary. Candidates are still welcome to contact me.

Annelise Brody Morani
Chair of the ICS Board of Directors

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**MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD**

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

Summer term schedule is online and registration is open. We will start on June 26th. Our TWO WEEK - INTENSIVE PROGRAM will be on Monday to Friday – the weeks of July 10th and July 24th: up to 5 hours per day: two hours either on Zoom or at the ICS +1.5 hours at a restaurant, or at the Battery Lane park + one extra hour either on Zoom or at the ICS. The first two hours are the basics, for everyone, then students can choose to add the extra time at lunch, or after lunch. The lunch sessions accept daily drop-ins, as a fun conversation class.

Besides the Intensive Program, we will have sessions of 10 weeks, sessions of 5 weeks and one session of three weeks, offering review courses for each level.

New this year is “A WEEK OF REVIEW!”: for one hour per day, during an entire week, from 2 to 3pm, Prof. Annelise Brody Morani will offer an intensive review for each level. One week will be dedicated to Beginners, one week to Elementary level students, one week for Intermediate and one week for Advanced level students.

Finally, Weekend Immersion courses for travelers are on June 24-25 • August 19–20.

Latin Immersion will be on the weeks of July 24-28 and July 31st - Aug. 4th.

For your children, we offer Summer Camps with Maestra Fiorenza and a new Instructor, starting on June 19th. 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!

Do not miss our Courses for Travelers and Food & Wine lovers, to discover geography, art and history, traditional food and wine of different regions. In English and including some Italian, depending on the audience. You will find them on the schedule under “SPECIAL COURSES & COURSES IN ENGLISH.”

At the end of August, the second ICS annual TRIP, organized with Bethesda Travel Center will take place. We are pleased to strengthen our collaboration with Guido Adelfio and his team. Annelise Brody Morani will accompany you to Tuscany and Emilia Romagna, her region. We are also partnering with John Salamone, who opens his special trips with Andrea Bocelli to our ICS members.

Our calendar 2023-24 will include new themes, events and exhibits. Do not miss our Gala on October 18th – Green Obsession - during the Week of the Italian Language in the World, that this year, has the theme “L’italiano e la sostenibilità”. We will have an exceptional Honorary Guest, the Architect Stefano Boeri. During our first event of the Fall, in September, we will talk about green energy ... so, stay tuned to our website and to Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn this summer! We will keep you posted on our next activities, for another exciting year of culture together!

The next issue of Poche Parole will be in September.

Come celebrate summer with us at the last Aperitivo of this school year, on June 13th!

Buona estate a tutti!

Francesca Casazza
CEO & Executive Director
TEMPO DI DIPLOMI!
Francesca Casazza

I nostri corsi di bambini e ragazzi di sabato finiranno il 3 giugno, mentre i corsi del venerdì sono terminati il 19 maggio, con consegna di diplomi e Nutella party.

Anche il nostro CORO in ITALIANO ha concluso l’annuale avventura domenica 21 maggio con una bellissima performance, diplomi e aperitivo per i giovani cantanti e i loro genitori!

Grazie di cuore agli insegnanti per la passione e l'entusiasmo che trasmettono; grazie ai genitori che si impegnano a mantenere viva la cultura italiana nelle loro case e grazie a tutti i nostri giovani studenti, che aspettiamo ai Summer Camp e ai corsi dell’Autunno, incluso un rinnovato coro in italiano e altre novità! BUONE VACANZE a tutti!!
Giuseppe Piccioni, with this movie, his eleventh work, once again confirmed his mastery in exploring the complexities of human relationships and his capability of painting the nuances of the human soul on the screen. He creates emotion and atmosphere, remembering a period of the past and making the audience think about the present.

I appreciate his sensitive style in presenting the characters and their lives, their subtle glances, the attention to details, that makes us feel emotions like joy, wounds, self-discovery, hopes and suspense/pressure that grows during the movie. This creates an emotional connection between the audience and the characters.

I particularly appreciate the message of hope that Luciano gives us in doing the right thing in difficult times. He is changing his opinions, his mind. He is fascist more for his survival than for his beliefs. Also the professor, Anotonio Salines says “Disobbedire a una legge sbagliata, a volte è un obbligo” – “Disobey to a wrong law sometimes is your duty.” And I also appreciate the message that LOVE can save us from spitefulness, cruelty and prejudices.

The film’s cinematography, as well as the soundtrack, perfectly capture the melancholic beauty of the settings and create evocative and emotional atmospheres. The film was shot in the city where Giuseppe was born, Ascoli Piceno, a beautiful town in the Marche region, like his first movie. And it mostly takes place in a restaurant. This was the geographical setting choice of the Director, a communicative place where emotions and people go in and out, and observe through the windows, through the doors, in different circumstances.

In conclusion, “L’ombra del giorno” is a touching and poignant film. It is a work that finds its way into the heart and remains with the audience even after the credits roll. It was a great honor to get to know and interview Giuseppe Piccioni.
This year the National Gallery of Art has hosted numerous special exhibits featuring renowned artists worldwide. Amongst these was the Vittorio Carpaccio exhibit, the first of its kind outside of Italy, that left DC starstruck for Venetian renaissance art.

This Spring, a new exhibition has opened up on the main floor of the West building. *Going through Hell: The Divine Dante* focuses on none other than the noteworthy Tuscan poet, Dante Alighieri, and his iconic *Divine Comedy*. It is a collection of around 20 works, all from the National Gallery's collection, tracing the impact of his influential poem on art throughout the ages. A variety of works from artists of diverse backgrounds come together to offer unique perspectives on Dante's journey through *Inferno, Purgatorio, and Paradiso*, many of these referencing to popular episodes from the narrative.

Two of the earliest pieces from the exhibit are two Florentine coins, attributed to the late 15th century. The first is a side portrait of the sommo poeta with his trademark laurel wreath, while the second depicts Dante before the Mountain of Purgatory. The latter coin is similar to a 16th-century *Allegorical Portrait of Dante*, a Florentine masterpiece that is part of the NGA's Samuel H. Kress Collection. In this piece, Dante looks back at *Purgatorio* while holding an opened book that contains a poem describing his longing to return to Florence. These endearing images, filled with hope for a brighter journey, contrast with the darker representations of the *Inferno* which the protagonist flees from.

One of these is a 15th-century Italian engraving of *The Inferno*, after the Fresco in the Camposanto of Pisa. The piece depicts Lucifer in the deepest pits of Hell which, rather than a fiery realm, is described by Dante as an icy tundra. The king of *Inferno* has three faces, those of Cassius, Brutus, and Judas, all of which symbolize their betrayal Julius Caesar and Jesus, respectively. Another vivid engraving brings a terrifying episode from *Inferno* Canto 25 to life. William Blake's *The Circle of the Thieves; Agnolo Brunelleschi Attacked by a Six-Footed Serpent* captures the shock of the sinners who watch the horrible scene in their expressive facial features. Brunelleschi, molested and mutilated by himself in a serpent form, is punished as a fraudulent thief.

The collection also features a few statues, including a cast of Auguste Rodin's *The Thinker (Le Penseur)*. Although, the most popular is perhaps another of Rodin's casts, *The Kiss (Le Baiser)*, which references one of Dante's most admired canticles, *Inferno* Canto 5. In this scene, adulterous lovers Paolo and Francesca are intertwined in a whirlwind storm of lust, which reflects their uncontrollable desires. The artist is also well known for *The Gates of Hell*, a monumental bronze sculptural group work that gives life to Dante's description of *Inferno*’s entrance – it is on view at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Another remarkable piece worth viewing is a heliogravure after Domenico di Michelino's *Dante as the poet of the Divine Comedy*, one of the most famous representations of the pilgrim's journey.

What a way to celebrate over 700 years of the Divine Comedy and Dante's amazing literary contributions! Without a doubt, Dante's mastery of Tuscan vernacular and his literary masterpiece have transcended time and space to continuously influence the coming generations. Don't miss this special exhibition, on view until July 26th.
The Board of Directors of the ICS cordially invites you to

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GREEN OBSESSION

HONORARY GUEST
Stefano Boeri
URBAN FORESTRY PIONEER
Founding Partner at Stefano Boeri Architetti

In conversation with
Lavinia Fici Pasquina
Professor of Architecture and Planning,
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Wednesday October 18th
6:30PM
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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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