MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Dear Members,

It was my pleasure to welcome so many of you at our annual Gala and I wish to thank here Her Excellency, the Ambassador of Italy, Mariangela Zappia, for allowing us to celebrate the Italian excellence in the World in the Embassy, and the Deputy Chief of Mission, Min. Plen. Alessandro Gonzales for the beautiful speech in our support and his participation in our event. I also wish to thank the Arch. Lavinia Fici Pasquina for being our moderator with Arch. Stefano Boeri and his team.

It was truly an emotional moment to learn about a life's work commitment to building sustainable cities, which fully showed the power of the legacy of our ancestors with an eye to the future.

Just as they did, when they employed the best architects and artists for the cities that today attract millions of tourists, so we can continue their work in our time, knowing that it is today we can shape our future and that of those who will come after us.

This is also the mission of the Italian Cultural Society as we continue to spread Italian culture with many outreach programs in the schools, with scholarships for high school students and young scientists, as well as cultural events that are open to anyone.

Did you know that you can sponsor a cultural event (lecture, concert, exhibit etc.) or a scholarship of your choice in your name or in the name of a loved one?

Please contact our office as soon as possible so that we can discuss your plans together and make the appropriate arrangements.

Coming up in November, we have a class on food and wine of Emilia Romagna with a demonstration on how to make our signature dish, his “majesty” the tortellino and a couple of family recipes to share, plus a surprise dessert in addition to the traditional torta degli Addobbi.

Professor Elizabeth Barnhardt, who teaches Italian at Washington University in Saint Louis, will be giving a lecture on her brand-new book about Genevra Sforza and the Bentivoglio, family, politics, gender and reputation in Renaissance Bologna.

This is a captivating story and precise historical analysis of how a woman's life was transformed into “a farraginous body of misogynistic legends claiming she destroyed the Bentivoglio.”

If you, like me, are among those who believe that history and rewriting history have something to teach us, please join me to learn more about this fascinating woman and her time.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families!

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

Our ILP Fall Term started its second session of 5 weeks, and we will soon announce our popular “December special drop-in lessons,” a great opportunity for people who prefer an extra review, and for new students to try our courses. More information and registration will be on the ILP webpage (red button!)

Maestra Fiorenza is ready to offer her workshop / Parents’ night out L’INVERNO E IL NATALE – Friday December 8th. You can register here.

Cooking Classes! Please let us know if you want to host a cooking class at your home. Stay tuned for other recipes and dates on our webpage: next class, on Saturday November 18th, will teach you how to cook Purè di Zucca e Tartufo, Bruschetta con misto di funghi, and Sbrisolona.

Finally, I have the pleasure of introducing you to our new series of events: “SAVORING ITALY.” We are planning to tell you a little bit about the history and the gastronomy of each region over the next few years, in a fun get-together, a gastronomic experience, a cultural presentation of the region while enjoying typical food and wine - apericena style (an informal light dinner – in between aperitivo and cena). It will be an occasion to mingle with fellow food enthusiasts and make new friends. It will be inaugurated during “The VIII annual Week of the Italian cuisine in the World” (Nov. 13-19). We will close the week with a modern cuisine demonstration, very popular in Italy among families who work and do not have much time to cook, but cannot give up genuine ingredients and sophisticated recipes: “Cooking Italian with the Thermomix® (AKA Bimby)”, on Sunday, November 19th, from 4:30 to 6 p.m – at the ICS Headquarters. Two events in one day on Nov. 19th: right after the book presentation about Genevra Sforza, we will stay to enjoy more food and learn the modern ways to prepare Italian gourmet dishes.

THANK YOU for your support and for being part of our growing community. We appreciate seeing the number of paying members and donors grow. We are delighted to know that you value our passionate work and welcome your suggestions and involvement.

My sincere wishes for a serene and happy Thanksgiving to all. Buon Giorno del Ringraziamento!

Francesca Casazza
CEO & Executive Director

The Italian Cultural Society of Washington D.C.
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Alessandro Vato and family
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This year's Gala was centered around Boeri's "Green Obsession" campaign that represents a new way of imagining the future of contemporary cities, designing biodiversity projects in densely populated areas and integrating living nature into architecture to reduce air pollution and improve air quality.

Guests of international acclaim in sustainability, architecture, and urban planning came to our Gala to honor Stefano Boeri’s career, an Italian architect and urban planner, famous for his Vertical Forest. (This was timed appropriately to the World Forum on Urban Forests that also took place in Washington.) Live music by Elijah Jamal Balded and his Jazz Trio, a gourmet dinner, piano performances by the winners of the Luciana Montanari Mendola Awards, the speeches of the excellent High school students of Italian winner of the Maria Wilmeth Award, and the speeches by esteemed researchers at NASA and NIH winners of the Young Scientist Award and Elena and Antonio De Luca Award, made the evening a very pleasant experience.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the Embassy of Italy, their precious collaboration and support, and to the Deputy Chief of Mission, Min. Plen. Alessandro Gonzales who opened the night with a speech on the importance of the mission of our historical organization.

Many thanks to Amy Riolo, who led our Gala with her beautiful words on the importance of speaking another language.

We celebrated the career of our Honorary Guest, Architect Stefano Boeri, with a video by Carola Mamberto and an intriguing conversation with Prof. and Architect Lavinia Fici Pasquino and Prof. Maria Chiara Pastore, who we thank for their engaging questions and valuable comments.

Many thanks to Antonella Ciancio, Magma Production LLC, for the ICS video and photographic service of the evening, generously donated.

Thank you to ORO Catering, for the delicious dinner, ended with GELATO, donated by the incredible Gianluigi Dellaccio, DOLCI GELATI - the best gelato in DC - accompanied by the best coffee ILLY! Thanks also to Villa Yolanda, for donating a special Prosecco, and Cantiniere Imports & Distributing Inc. who donated with Marramiero and D'Angelo a superb white and red wine.

Thanks to our staff Emanuela and Eugenia and to our volunteers Sikelia, Isabella and Sofia!

Couldn't make it to the ICS 2023 Gala? Soon you will be able to watch the full recording on our YouTube page, and enjoying pictures on Facebook and Instagram.

Huge thanks to all of our Sponsors this year, featured on page 3! (See details and links to sponsors on the Gala Page)

And many thanks to all participants and all our supporters. We had a great time!

Grazie di cuore!

The Gala Committee
A historical, artistic, anthropological, and eno-gastronomical tour of Italy's regions. 

(In English, with some Italian language learning exposure.)

On the occasion of the VIII annual Week of Italian Cuisine in the World, the ICS is launching a new events series, "Apericena – Savoring Italy!"

This series, which expands on our popular "Aperitivo – Conversando in Italiano!" will transport you to Italy's regions and their eno-gastronomical origins.

Each event will offer a cultural presentation of the region while enjoying typical food and wine – apericena style (an informal light dinner, in between aperitivo and cena)!

We will start with a region most known for its gastronomy: Emilia-Romagna.

The Speaker:

Originally from Reggio Emilia, Prof. Annelise Brody Morani will present the Emilia Romagna region and include a brief preparation of pasta fresca and tortellini.

You can purchase tickets [here](#).
Based on contemporary research conducted in about thirty archives across Italy, Bernhardt’s revisionist biography introduces Genevra as the subject of serious academic study for the first time. Until now, Genevra has only been known through negative posthumous accounts that were employed to tarnish her image and reputation. The book explores how Genevra’s life turned into a developing saga (500+ years in the making) about how she destroyed her family and the city of Bologna, known for its ancient university culture and critical thinking.

Light refreshments will follow the Q&A Session.

RSVP here.

Attendees who register for the Zoom webinar will receive a reminder email containing the link on the day before the presentation.

COOKING DEMONSTRATION

COOKING ITALIAN WITH THE THERMOMIX® (AKA BIMBY)
Sunday, November 19th from 4:30 to 6 p.m – at the ICS Headquarters

Join us for a taste of classic Italian recipes effortlessly made in the Thermomix®, affectionately known as ‘Bimby’ in Italy. The Thermomix® is a versatile kitchen appliance that streamlines the cooking process, creating delicious and healthy dishes in no time, without compromising on flavor and quality ingredients.

Ideal for those leading busy lives, the Thermomix® is the perfect solution for quick and wholesome cooking. Sold worldwide, it’s a must-have for many Italian home cooks and Michelin-star chefs.

Following the demonstration, you’ll have the opportunity to purchase this item and taste some of its delightful creations.

RSVP here.
Mixed by Erry Review

As we welcome the season of cozy evenings indoors, there are many Italian films on the streaming giants to enjoy. One such film is Mixed by Erry, a newly released comedy on Netflix that swept me away with its light-hearted narrative and characters. Below is my take on Mixed by Erry. I hope it inspires you to watch the film!

Directed by Sydney Sibilia, "Mixed by Erry" follows the real-life story of three industrious brothers who became renowned for pirated tapes. Luigi D'Oriano plays Enrico, who becomes the neighborhood's mixtape guru while working at a record store. When the store closes, Enrico is devastated and wants to keep selling tapes at all costs. Giuseppe Arena and Emanuele Palumbo play Enrico's brothers, Peppe and Angelo, who convince a group of cigarette bootleggers to sell their cassettes around the country. And so the pirate empire begins.

The themes of deceit and ingenuity, a common thread in Sibilia's films, are evident from the story's beginning. Viewers are first introduced to the Frattasio brothers as little boys who help their father make and sell counterfeit liquor. It is entertaining and, quite frankly, exhilarating to see three young men from one of Naples' poorest neighborhoods go from rags to riches in the name of inventing pirated mixtapes.

It took millions of cassettes and more than a decade for the Financial Police to arrest the three brothers and finally dismantle their illicit tape-making business. How the piracy operation develops from a petty misdemeanor of no concern to a national affair, intermingled with the rise of CDs and technological advances, gives the narrative a playful, energizing shape.

In my opinion, the brothers' relationships and rivalries are what bring the story to life. If we zero in on each of the siblings' characters - Erry the artist, Peppe the merchant, and Angelo the bandit - all raised by a conman who is nonetheless shocked at the scale of his progeny's criminality - we quickly grasp the psychology of Mixed by Erry.

Mentre diamo il via alla stagione delle serate tranquille in casa, sui maggiori siti di streaming ci sono molti film italiani da godersi. Uno di questi è Mixed by Erry, una commedia su Netflix rilasciata di recente che mi ha conquistata con la sua narrazione e i suoi personaggi piacevoli. Qui di seguito trovate la mia recensione del film. Spero che vi ispiri a guardarlo!

Enrico Frattasio, da ragazzo di un quartiere popolare di Napoli, voleva diventare un DJ. Tuttavia, incoraggiato dai suoi ambiziosi fratelli, finisce per gestire un impero di cassette pirata che diviene più importante di qualsiasi etichetta musicale lecita nell'Italia degli anni Ottanta. Ma nulla di "troppo bello per essere vero" dura troppo a lungo, e i fratelli Frattasio finiscono per ritrovarsi dietro le sbarre per i loro affari illegali.

Diretto da Sydney Sibilia, "Mixed by Erry" segue la storia vera di tre operosi fratelli che divennero famosi per la produzione di nastri pirata. Luigi D'Oriano interpreta Enrico, che diventa il guru delle compilation di cassette del quartiere mentre lavora in un negozio di dischi. Quando il negozio chiude, Enrico è sconvolto e vuole continuare a vendere cassette a tutti i costi. Giuseppe Arena ed Emanuele Palumbo interpretano i fratelli di Enrico, Peppe e Angelo, che convincono un gruppo di contrabbandieri di sigarette a vendere le loro cassette in tutto il paese. E così inizia l'impero dei pirati.

I temi dell'inganno e dell'ingegnosità, un filo comune nei film di Sibilia, sono evidenti fin dall'inizio della trama. Gli spettatori vengono introdotti per la prima volta ai fratelli Frattasio come ragazzi che aiutano il padre a produrre e vendere liquori contraffatti. È divertente e, francamente, esilarante vedere tre giovani provenienti da uno dei quartieri più poveri di Napoli passare dagli stracci alla ricchezza in nome dell'invenzione di compilation di cassette pirata.

Ci sono voluti milioni di cassette e più di dieci anni prima che la Guardia di Finanza arrestando i tre fratelli e smantellasse finalmente la loro attività illecita di produzione di nastri. Il percorso che porta l'operazione di pirateria da un reato minore di nessun interesse a un affare di portata nazionale, in parallelo con l'ascesa dei CD, dona alla narrazione una forma giocosa ed energizzante.

A mio parere, sono le relazioni e le rivalità dei fratelli a dare vita alla storia. Se ci concentriamo sui caratteri di ciascuno dei fratelli - Erry l'artista, Peppe il mercante e Angelo il bandito - tutti cresciuti da un truffatore che tuttavia è scioccato dalla criminalità della sua progenie, cogliamo rapidamente la psicologia di Mixed by Erry.
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For the year (9 issues): 20% discount

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.

VISIT US ONLINE AT ITALIANCULTURALSOCIETY.ORG
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10 DEC
4-6 PM

PROGRAM:
4:00 Workshop with maestra Fiorenza
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5:10 Babbo Natale & Befana arrival & gift distribution
5:20 Brindisi with Panettone & Christmas Raffle

RSVP: https://italianculturalociety.org/festa-di-natale/
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