

Supporting Italian Arts, Culture, and Language Since 1953

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



Dear Members.

Tis the season to celebrate! As we are getting ready for the holidays allow me to express all my gratitude for the extensive and constant support that you have been giving the Italian Cultural Society. We love to see your involvement and your enthusiasm for our courses, events, lectures and travels. Our community is expanding in so many ways: in our class offerings, including the music school and the choir, the classical language program, your generous donations for our scholarships, and most importantly, the ones which I prize the most, the dedication, commitment and love of our teachers, students, and members. Because of these, we have created a community that for many of you is very close to home, like Italy away from Italy, a place to feel welcomed and to find inclusiveness and a warm and friendly atmosphere.

December is a month where we especially feel this closeness with our students, staff, and members. It is the month where we are reflecting on past achievements and setting new goals.

On Friday December 15th, we will celebrate the holiday season with a brindisi with panettone and you are all welcome to come for the well wishes exchange in Italian or English (just do not forget to register ahead).

Ongoing in collaboration with AFI, also on December 15th at 7:00 pm, there will be the showing of the movie by Marco Bellocchio, (2023) Kidnapped: the Abduction of Edgardo Mortara.

In 1858 Bologna, tragedy strikes a prosperous Jewish family when their seven-year-old son, Edgardo, is forcibly taken to the Vatican for a Catholic upbringing. Amid an international scandal and the Pope's refusal to return the child, a gripping tale of power and faith unfolds. Marco Bellocchio's film, based on true events, offers a lavishly lensed, heartbreaking melodrama with surreal touches.

Looking into 2024, we will be offering another "Taste of Italy" in March, our most recent and very successful event focusing on learning about a specific regional cuisine followed by an apericena featuring the food and wine of that cuisine.

From our families to yours, we wish you peace, joy and a very happy holiday season!

Annelise Brody Morani Chair of the ICS Board of Directors

December 2023 | Vol. LII | No. 1

ITALIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM & MORE

Dear Friends,

The Winter schedule is online and registration is open. You are invited to register between January 1st and January 4th, with a discounted tuition. Save \$10 and allow our administration and teachers to organize their work better, by registering during these 4 days. Discount will not apply in December, nor after January 4th.

New beginner classes will start both in the evening, in the morning, and on Saturdays, online and in person, as well as other levels, from beginners 2, to elementary, intermediate and advanced levels.

Among the courses (online and in person), we have the pleasure to present:

TUTTI ALL'OPERA (B2-C2), taught by Maestro Diego Rodriguez, a unique opportunity for students to explore Italian opera and develop a deep connection to Italian art and culture. Whether you are a music lover, a lover of the Italian language, or simply wish to enrich your cultural knowledge, this course offers an engaging and stimulating experience. (5 weeks, Tue.12:30-2:30). The course is also offered in English, on Tue. 6:30-8:30.

We will offer again:

ITALIAN LITERATURE - MEDIEVAL TO CURRENT TIMES: PART 1 - DANTE'S JOURNEY (C1-C2), a University level course, also for Italian natives, that covers the main Italian literary authors, starting with Dante Alighieri and through modern times, The collections of the Barberini Palace in Rome (B1-C1), Parliamo di arte (B2-C2), Gli occhi della Gioconda (B1-C1), Virtual Tour of Rome (B2-C2); for the beginner levels: Passeggiate nella grammatica (A1-B1), and L'Italia, parliamone! (B1) as "lunchtime conversation" courses – to mention just a few – See our schedule for the complete list and details on our courses.

For those of you who like to read Italian news, two courses, for different levels: *Italy Today* and *Live from Italy*, with the

journalist Nicoletta Nencioli (Ansa).

As **courses for travelers**, this term, you can explore Venice and Rome. **Latin courses** of different levels continue online, while **Cooking classes** are in person, in Rockville and in DCTenley Town. Please contact us, if you would like to host the class open to everyone in your house, and for you it will be free! Or contact us for a private event/cooking class at your home.

I finally invite you to try our **yoga classes**, to keep your body as trained and young as your mind!

For the children, Maestra Fiorenza is planning our next Themed workshop "La Befana e I Re Magi" on January 5th, 6:30-9:30pm (parents night out!)

Please consider giving an Italian course as a Christmas gift. See our Christmas gift card!

If you missed our events, you can watch our <u>YouTube</u> Channel, as well as our social media.

Your support and appreciation for our courses and events was very valuable for us during the year, as well as in the past. Our community is growing and, if you are passionate and enthusiastic about our mission, you are welcome to contact us to work with us, volunteer, join our Board, share ideas and initiatives. We look forward to seeing your involvement grow more and more.

Please consider your end-of-year donation to the ICS and take advantage of the <u>free tickets to go to the AFI Silver Spring</u>, to watch the Italian movies recommended.

Affettuosi auguri di Buone Feste,

Francesca Casazza
CEO & Executive Director





THE ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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ITALIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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Karen Edwards

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Isabelle Zapparoli and family Julia Pulzone and family

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THE ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON D.C. 4833 Rugby Avenue, Suite #201 Bethesda, MD 20814

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KIDS AND TEENS WORKSHOPS

Venerdì sera un bel gruppo di bambini dai 4 ai 10 anni si sono divertiti a scoprire la storia del Pandoro, dove nasce, come e' fatto, come si prepara, come si taglia, dopo aver fatto un viaggio virtuale nelle piazze e nelle vie italiane addobbate per Natale, con le luminarie, i presepi di tutti i tipi, da quello vivente, a quello di ghiaccio, da quello di pane a quello di sale, da quello di pasta a quello di neve, da quello di sabbia a quello subacqueo. Abbiamo mangiato la pizza, imparando ad ordinarla all'italiana, pepperoni? no per i vegetariani!, al formaggio?, no, la Margherita! Abbiamo ballato ed ascoltato le lettura di un bel libro natalizio ad alta voce, abbiamo giocato e cantato dalle 6.30 fino alle 9.30 di sera, si! Tutto in italiano all'ICS! Vi aspetto per il prossimo laboratorio con cena, soldini di cioccolato e carbone della Befana! Venerdì 5 gennaio 2023. Per iscrizioni: https://italianculturalsociety.org/kids-teens/

By Fiorenza Castelli, Workshop and Summer Camp Coordinator



AFI SILVER THEATRE PRESENTS A SERIES OF ITALIAN FILMS AT THE 2023 AFI EUROPEAN UNION FILM SHOWCASE, RUNNING FROM NOV 30 TO DEC 19

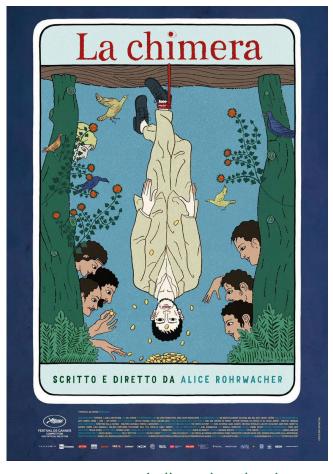
Our Christmas raffle includes tickets for any of these shows. Also, end-of-the-year donations are welcome! We would like to thank the first three people who donate starting December 1st (minimum \$200) with a pair of tickets to any of the shows. Please contact us for tickets pick-up!



LA CHIMERA

SAT, DEC. 2, 6:45PM; THURS, DEC. 7, 7:00PM

English expat archaeologist Arthur (Josh O'Connor) has gone to seed. Having relocated to Tuscany in the early 1980s, he fell in love with Beniamina, the daughter of aging local aristocrat Flora (Isabella Rossellini). But Beniamina has died, leaving Arthur a lost soul, though one with the gift of second sight: he can use a dousing rod to locate Etruscan tombs and their treasure hoards with uncanny precision. Along with a motley crew of graverobbers, Arthur takes part in finding and selling antiquities illegally to the mysterious local dealer Spartaco (Alba Rohrwacher), a money-making adventure for the carefree members of the gang, but just a way to keep booze and cigarettes in supply for the morose Arthur. Then he meets Italia (Carol Duarte), the live-in maid and sometime singing pupil of Flora, who offers the possibility of romance in the land of the living instead of Arthur's doom-laden obsession with the underworld. This funny, folkloric, romantic and thought-provoking film from Alice Rohrwacher (HAPPY AS LAZZARO, THE PUPILS, 2022 AFI European Union Film Showcase) may be her greatest yet. Official Selection, 2023 Cannes Film Festival. DIR/SCR Alice Rohrwacher; PROD Carlo Cresto-Dina. Italy/France/ Switzerland, 2023, color, 130 min. In English and Italian with English subtitles. Not yet rated.



ME CAPTAIN [IO CAPITANO]

SAT, DEC. 9, 7:00PM; WED, DEC. 13, 7:00PM

Matteo Garrone made his name with the landmark Neapolitan crime film GOMORRAH (2008 AFI European Union Film Showcase) and has since demonstrated a penchant for gothic tales tinged with dark fantasy, including TALE OF TALES (2015 AFI European Union Film Showcase), DOGMAN (2018 AFI European Union Film Showcase) and PINOCCHIO. With ME CAPTAIN, Garrone turns his attention back to real-life subject matter, finding a story of bravery and heroism that's equal to any classical epic or enchanting fairy tale. Musicianturned-actor Seydou Sarr gives an impressive performance as Seydou, a Senegalese teenager who lives in a cramped house in Dakar with his mother and younger sisters. Along with his cousin Moussa (Moustapha Fall), Seydou has been working odd jobs and saving money, preparing for a move to Italy, with dreams of pursuing a music career. Along the way, they will contend with shakedowns from corrupt border quards, mistreatment from human traffickers, a dangerous crossing of the Sahara Desert and imprisonment, abuse and modern-day slavery in Libya, before undertaking the final and most challenging leg of their epic journey: a perilous crossing of the Mediterranean Sea in a rusty, overcrowded boat, with Seydou forced to navigate and pilot the ship himself. Winner, Best Director, 2023 Venice Film Festival. DIR/SCR/PROD Matteo Garrone; SCR Massimo Gaudioso, Massimo Ceccherini, Andrea Tagliaferri; PROD Paolo Del Brocco. Italy/Belgium/France, 2023, color, 121 min. In English, Arabic, French and Wolof with English subtitles. Not yet rated.

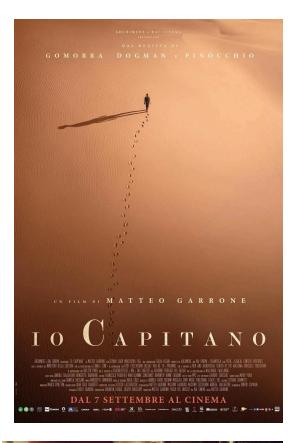


FRI, DEC. 15, 7:00PM; TUE, DEC. 19, 7:00PM

Bologna, 1858. A well-to-do Jewish family suffers an unfathomable fate when their seven-year-old son, Edgardo, is ripped from their arms. Secretly baptized at birth by a concerned maid, he must now be raised a Catholic. Under instruction of the Papal State, which forbids Christians to be raised by non-Christians, he is abducted and taken to the Vatican to be put under the care of Pope Pius IX himself. An international scandal ensues as his parents (Fausto Russo Alesi and Barbara Ronchi) desperately fight for the return of their son and the safeguarding of his heritage. Caught in the crossfire of a brewing revolution, the Pope refuses to acquiesce, only fueling the flames for those demanding an end to his theocratic rule. Based on true events, celebrated Italian filmmaker Marco Bellocchio's (THE TRAITOR, 2019 AFI European Union Film Showcase) riveting portrait of power and faith is a lavishly lensed, heartbreaking melodrama enhanced by flashes of surrealism. Official Selection, 2023 AFI FEST, Cannes, Toronto and New York film festivals. DIR/SCR Marco Bellocchio; SCR Susanna Nicchiarelli; PROD Beppe Caschetto, Paolo Del Brocco, Simone Gattoni. Italy/France/Germany, 2023, color, 134 min. In Italian, Hebrew and Latin with English subtitles. Not yet rated.

Click on show time to get tickets.







PAST EVENTS

SAVORING ITALY

By Eugenia Lollini

On November 17th, the ICS hosted "Apericena - Savoring Italy", the first gathering of a new event series that transports participants to Italy's regions and their eno-gastronomical origins. The first region presented was Emilia Romagna, a region home to some of the culinary specialties that have led to Italy's worldwide fame.

At the event, attendees enjoyed learning about Emilia Romagna's rich cultural and culinary history while tasting some of the region's gastronomic staples: Lambrusco wine, Parmigiano Reggiano, Mortadella (courtesy of Vace Italian Delicatessen), and the delicious Piadina Romagnola with Mozzarella and Prosciutto (courtesy of Consorzio del Prosciutto di Parma).

This series, which expands on our popular Fridays Aperitivo - Conversando in Italiano, event will offer a cultural presentation of the region while you enjoy typical food and wine - apericena style (an informal light dinner, in between aperitivo and cena)! Be on the lookout for the announcement of the next region and event!

Read more about the event here.



WATCH THE YOUTUBE VIDEO HERE!

PAST EVENTS

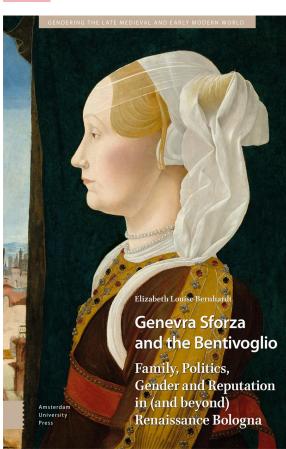
BOOK PRESENTATION: GENEVRA SFORZA AND THE BENTIVOGLIO BY ELIZABETH BERNHARDT

Sunday, November 19th, Dr. Elizabeth Bernhardt shared her revisionist biography, "Genevra Sforza and the Bentivoglio."

Her research, spanning thirty Italian archives, redefines Genevra's narrative, challenging negative posthumous portrayals. The 500+ year saga explores her life amid the ancient culture of Bologna, questioning preconceptions.

We were happy to have over 40 in-person attendees, and even more online! The public's appreciation for the presentation was evident through the lively interaction during the Q&A, and also during the refreshments time, which provided a pleasant conclusion to the event.

Thanks to all who joined, in person and virtually! You can find the recording on our <u>YouTube</u> Channel.









Elizabeth Bernhardt's major research interests focus on women's culture and family life in Renaissance Italy. She also studies Italian artists and artisan culture from the 15th c. as well as in today's world. She completed her PhD in early modern European history at the University of Toronto and has lived in Italy for over twenty years. Her area of specialization is 15th c. Bologna, and her manuscript on Genevra Sforza de' Bentivoglio (ca. 1441-1507) and her enormous family won an award (as best "unpublished manuscript" from the Society of Italian Historical Studies). The text

has been extensively researched in various 15th-century sources across approximately thirty Italian archives.

While in Italy, she has taught courses on her primary interests: the history and culture of the Italian family (for the University of California in Rome) and the history of art and Italian craftsmanship in the early modern period (for the Liceo Classico Giulio Cesare in Rome). She has also authored two textbooks on Italian modern art during her time there. In her hometown in Missouri, USA, she has taught Italian culture courses at both Saint Louis University and Washington University in St. Louis.

TRIPS TO ITALY WITH LAURA: UMBRIA & FLORENCE

June 14th - 23rd, 2024



June 14 - 23, 2024



SIGN UP TODAY!

see contact info to reach out





Contact Details

Laura Stohlman Trip Organizer/Leader laurastohlmanegmail.com



My name is Lour Stohlman, I am Italian but moved to the US over 20 years age with my husband and kids. My family and many friends live in Italy and my connection and love for "Bella Italia" opened my desire to organize meaningful thirps for hose who want to experience and learn about the beauty that surrounds you while in Italy. Join me in discovering Italy!

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.

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.

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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Explore Melitta P's luxurious cashmere sweaters, crafted with top-notch yarns from Loro Piana and Cariaggi. Elevate your style with iconic scarves and shawls sourced from the vendor of Brunello Cucinelli and Chanel. Indulge in exclusive leather bags—a touch of luxury at unbeatable prices. More info on this fabulous collection HERE

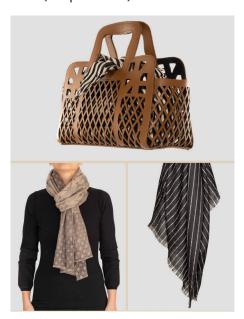
BY APPOINTMENT Until Dec. 16th

OPEN HOUSE

Nov. 18th 10.30 am to 5.30 pm * Dec. 2nd 10.30 am to 5.30 pm * Dec. 9th 10:30 am to 5:30 pm

For every purchase, a small percentage supports the ICS!

*MELITTA PATERNI, founder and Executive Director at MELITTA P. LLC, promotes Made in Italy in the United States, representing Italian companies that manufacture fashion luxury products. Currently, she specializes in cashmere knitwear accessories handmade in Tuscany, Italy. Working with the designer and buying teams, Melitta combines knowledge of design and the fashion market to develop custom-made exclusive collections. Her clients include Herno, Bergdorf Goodman, Neiman Marcus, The Elder Statesman, Ralph Lauren, and The Plaza Hotel.







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