poche parole ICS

the italian cultural society of washington, dc

November 2007 Newsletter, Vol. XXIV, NO. 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanks to the generosity of our Maria Wilmeth, who functioned as a host and organizer for our October 21 event, we were able to have a wonderful cooking demonstration by Mrs. Dora Farina-Del Prete, the author of a beautiful two-volume book "In Cucina con Amore", which she has dedicated to all Italian Americans. Dr. Cetti Mangano helped with the translation. A crowd of sixty members and guests enjoyed the antipasto of Cozze al Riso, the pasta dish of Pennette alla Vodka, the main dish of Spezzatino di Vitello, and la Torta Caprese for dessert. The gourmet sampling displayed Dora's ability as a cook and as a person of great improvisational talent. She prepared the most delicious menu of food under conditions less than optimal and earned the enthusiastic compliments of all participants. Again many thanks to all that helped with the staging of this event.

The Agenda for our next social event on November 18th will feature renowned classicist Professor Judith Hallett of the Classics Department at the University of Maryland, who will tell us about "Divorce Roman Style". (Our film of the month at 1 PM will be, appropriately, "Divorce Italian Style"). Some of Prof. Hallett's accomplishments are described elsewhere in this issue. We are very glad that she agreed to dedicate some time of her very busy schedule to speak to us. The talk is planned for 25 minutes, followed by 15 minutes of discussion. Next, we will be treated to 25 minutes of Italian songs by the well known tenor Antonio Torchia. He will delight us with opera arias and songs from Naples and other Italian cities. Finally, we will serve a gourmet pasta specialty complemented by salad.

At the very beginning of our meeting (3 PM), we will have a new activity: the breaking of a piñata by young children. Joe Onofrietti is organizing this aspect of the social and we are grateful to him for his volunteer work as a member of the Board. Parents please make sure that the kids will be there at 3 PM sharp! Thanks!

I would like to thank all members of the Board who took part in the social of October 21st to make sure that the cooking event was the success it turned out to be.

I look forward to greater numbers of attendees on November 18 to learn about the social conjugal mores of the Romans, hear wonderful singing and eat great food. I look forward to seeing you all there!

Luigi De Luca

ICS EVENTS

Social Meetings start at 3:00 PM on the third Sunday of the month, September thru June
at the Friendship Heights Village Center,
4433 South Park Ave, Chevy Chase, MD
(See map on last page)

Nov 18 -- Prof. Judith P. Hallett will discuss "Divorce Roman Style" and Antonio Torchia will sing Italian songs. (See pp. 2 & 3 for details) Also, Piñata for kids, and gourmet pasta.

Dec 16 -- Christmas Party with food, drink, Babbo Natale and la Befana!! Soprano Denise Freeland of the EcoVoce Ensemble will sing operatic and Christmas selections.

Jan 20 – Tommaso Astarita will speak on South Italian history.

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Please Note
Our Social Meeting for November 18
Will Also Feature
• CINEMA: 1:00 to 3:00 pm
"Divorce Italian Style" (See p.3 for review)
(In Italian with English subtitles.)

FREE ITALIAN LANGUAGE LESSONS
FOR ALL LEVELS
From 2:00 to 3:00 pm

ICS Board of Directors and their Responsibilities

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PROGRAM OF NOVEMBER 18

DIVORCE ROMAN STYLE

Professor Judith P. Hallett teaches in the Classics Department of the University of Maryland, where she specializes in Latin language and literature; ancient Roman and Greek civilization; women, sexuality and the family in classical antiquity; and the classical tradition in America. At the November 18 meeting she will discuss "*Divorce Roman Style*"

Author of "*Fathers and Daughters in Roman Society: Women and the Elite Family*" (Princeton 1984), she has edited and contributed to several collections of essays. Among them are "*Roman Sexualities*," and "*Rome and Her Monuments: Essays in Honor of the City and Literature of Rome in Honor of Katherine A. Geffcken*," She is also the author of the four essays on classical Roman women writers in "*Women Writing Latin*" (Routledge 2002), and of chapters in books, articles, reviews and translations into both English and classical Latin.

Prof. Hallett received her BA from Wellesley College and her MA and PhD in Classical Philology from Harvard University. While attending Harvard, she studied at the American Academy in Rome. After receiving her doctorate she spent a year at the Institute of Classical Studies at the University of London. She has held Mellon teaching fellowships at both Brandeis University and the Wellesley Center for Research on Women, and a research fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities. She has received numerous awards for excellence in teaching and has appeared several times on the History Channel and in all four episodes of the 2001 PBS series "*The Roman Empire in the First Century*"

TENOR ANTHONY TORCHIA

Born and raised in Italy, tenor Anthony Torchia has been singing professionally for 45 years. He received bachelor's and master's degrees in music from the

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PROGRAMMA DEL 18 NOVEMBRE

DIVORZIO ALLA ROMANA

Prof. Judith P. Hallett insegna nel Dipartimento di Classicismo della University of Maryland dove è specializzata nella lingua e la letteratura latina; la civilizzazione antica romana e greca; le donne, la sessualità e la famiglia nell' antichità classica; e la tradizione classica in America. Nella riunione del 18 novembre parlerà di "*Divorzio alla Romana*"

Autore di "*Padri e figlie nella Società Romana: donne e la Famiglia Signorile*" (Princeton 1984), Prof. Hallett ha curato e contribuito a diverse collezioni di saggi. Fra questi sono "*Sessualità Romane*" e "*Roma e I suoi Monumenti: Saggi in Onore della Città e della Letteratura di Roma in Onore di Katherine A. Geffcken*." È anche autore dei quattro saggi su scrittrici classiche romane in "*Donne che Scrivono in Latino*" (Routledge 2002), e di diversi capitoli in libri, articoli, riviste, e traduzioni sia in inglese ché in latino classico.

Prof. Hallett si è laureata a Wellesley College ed ha ricevuto il MA e il PhD in Filologia Classica da Harvard University. Mentre frequentava Harvard, ha studiato all' American Academy a Roma. Dopo aver ricevuto il PhD ha passato un anno all' Institute of Classical Studies nell' University of London. Ha ricevuto una borsa di studio per l'insegnamento da Brandeis University e dal Wellesley Center for Research on Women, e una borsa di studio per ricerca dal National Endowment for the Humanities. Ha ricevuto numerosi premi per eccellenza nell' insegnamento ed è stata commentatrice parecchie volte alla televisione per il programma History Channel e nei quattro episodi della serie PBS del 2001 "*The Roman Empire in the First Century*".

TENORE ANTHONY TORCHIA

Nato e cresciuto in Italia, il tenore Anthony Torchia è cantante di mestiere da quaranta anni. Si è laureato in musica alla Catholic University of America. Ha cantato

Catholic University of America. He has performed extensively in the Washington DC area with several local opera companies, including the Washington National Opera, Sokol Opera, National Lyric Opera, Opera Southwest, Vienna Lyric Opera, Opera Camerata of Washington, and the Summer Opera Theatre.

He has sung the U.S. premiere of two Czech operas in the original language: as Jirka, in ***Cert a Kaca*** by Dvorak, and as Dratenik, in ***Dratenik*** by Skroup.

Mr. Torchia is featured in several restaurants in the Washington-Virginia-Maryland area as a guest performer entertaining distinguished guests and audiences of all ages. He has also been a soloist with the Georgetown Symphony Orchestra, the McLean Choral Society , the Prince William Symphony , the Prince George's Choral Society and the McLean orchestra.

He will be accompanied at the piano by David Chapman.

moltissimo nella zona di Washington DC con parecchie orchestre d'opera, fra le quali Washington National Opera, Sokol Opera, National Lyric Opera, Opera Southwest, Vienna Lyric Opera, Opera Camerata of Washington, ed il Summer Opera Theatre.

Ha cantato per la prima volta negli S.U. due opere ceche in lingua originale; nella parte di Jirka in ***Cert a Kaca*** di Dvorak, e nella parte di Dratenik, in ***Dratenik*** di Skroup.

Il Sig. Torchia canta anche in alcuni ristoranti nella zona di Washington-Virginia-Maryland come artista convitato, divertendo clienti eminenti e pubblico di tutte le età. È anche stato solista con la Georgetown Symphony Orchestra, la McLean Choral Society, la Prince William Symphony, the Prince George's Choral Society,e la McLean orchestra.

Sarà accompagnato da David Chapman al pianoforte.

FILM OF THE MONTH

The Italian Cultural Society film of the month for November will be ***Divorce Italian Style***. Director Pietro Germi teams up with screenwriter Ennio De Concini for this hilarious cutting satire of Sicilian male-chauvinist culture. Baron Ferdinando Cefalù (Marcello Mastroianni) longs to marry his nubile young cousin Angela (Stefania Sandrelli), but one obstacle stands in his way: his fatuous and fawning wife, Rosalia (Daniela Rocca). His solution? Since divorce is illegal, he hatches a plan to lure his spouse into the arms of another and then murder her in a justifiable effort to save his honor. Divorce Italian Style won the 1962 Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay. *Italian with English subtitles.*

FILM DEL MESE

Il film del mese di novembre sarà ***Divorzio all' Italiana.*** Il regista Pietro Germi collabora con l'autore Ennio De Concini in questa satira ilare della cultura maschiaccia siciliana. Il Barone Ferdinando Cefalù (Marcello Mastroianni) desidera ardentemente sposare la sua nubile cugina Angela (Stefania Sandrelli), però un ostacolo lo impedisce: sua moglie sciocca e strisciante, Rosalia (Daniela Rocca). La soluzione? Dato che il divorzio è illegale, prepara un piano per adescare la moglie nelle braccia di un altro e poi di ammazzarla in un justificabile tentativo di salvarsi l'onore. ***Divorzio all' Italiana*** ha vinto l' Academy Award di 1962 per la migliore commedia filmata originale*. In italiano con sottotitoli in inglese.*

FROM ITALY TO MONONGAH – A CENTURY LATER
by Lucio D'Andrea

December 6, 2007 marks the centennial of the deadliest underground coal mining disaster in U.S. history. On the morning of December 6, 1907, explosions ripped coal mines No. 6 and 8 in the small town of Monongah, West Virginia, located a few miles south of Fairmont. The impact of these tremendous explosions was felt for over 8 miles. Official records list a death toll of 358, while some company employees and witnesses reported the toll to be over 550. It widowed 250 women and left 1,000 children fatherless. The tragedy was particularly traumatic to the Italian immigrant community that had settled in Monongah,

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DALL' ITALIA A MONONGAH – UN SECOLO DOPO
di Lucio D'Andrea

Il 6 dicembre, 2007 è il centenario del disastro più mortale nella storia delle miniere di carbone negli Stati Uniti. Nella mattina del 6 dicembre 1907 delle esplosioni colpirono le miniere N. 6 e 8 nel piccolo comune di Monongah nel West Virginia, situata a poche miglia a sud di Fairmont. La forza di queste esplosioni tremende si sentì a più di 8 miglia di distanza. I verbali elencano una perdita di 358 minatori, ma degli impiegati della ditta rivelarono che il numero dei morti era più di 550. Il disastro fece vedove 250 donne, e mille bambini rimasero senza papà. La tragedia fu particolarmente traumatica per la comunità

along with immigrants from Poland, Hungary, Greece and Ireland. The death toll of the Italians was over 170 who had emigrated from several regions: the majority were from Molise, with the loss of 87; Calabria, with 43; and Abruzzo, with 16. Others affected were from small towns in Basilicata, Campagnia, Lazio, Piemonte and Veneto. A century later, a number of tributes are planned in Italy, Pittsburgh, Monongah, and Washington, DC to ensure that the tragedy that touched the lives of so many families will not be forgotten.

In Washington, DC, the "Monongah Memorial Committee" has been established, chaired by the Reverend Lydio Tomasi, c.s. PhD, Pastor of Holy Rosary Church in Washington, DC. On Sunday, December 2, 2007, the Committee will sponsor a special commemoration of the disaster. It will commence with a noon mass at Holy Rosary Church, 595 3rd Street, N.W. The main celebrant and homilist will be H.E. Pietro Sambi, Apostolic Nunzio to the United States. A panel will convene at 1:00 p.m. to shed light and learn more about the people, lives, conditions, etc., of the Monongah community. Introductory remarks will be offered by Father Lydio. Chairing the discussion will be Professor Joseph Tropea, former Chair of the Sociology Department of George Washington University. Joining him will be Joseph D'Andrea, former Honorary Consul of Italy in Pittsburgh, PA, and Professor Davitt McAteer, former Assistant Secretary for Mine Safety and Health, U.S. Department of Labor. A documentary reflecting the effects of this tragedy on Monongah and some of the towns and villages in Italy from which the immigrants came, will be shown after the panel discussion. There will also be an exhibit and a reception.

A number of Italian American organizations in the Washington, DC area have been invited to co-sponsor this event. I am delighted that the Italian Cultural Society is one of them. Members and friends are cordially invited to take part in this commemoration.

Lucio D'Andrea is a member of the Italian Cultural Society and of the Monongah Memorial Committee

degli immigranti italiani che si era istallata a Monongah insieme a immigranti dalla Polonia, dall' Ungheria, dalla Grecia e dall' Irlanda. Più di 170 Italiani, emigrati da varie regioni, morirono, la maggior parte dal Molise (87), dalla Calabria (43), e dall' Abruzzo (16). Altri venivano da piccoli comuni nella Basilicata, nella Campania, nel Lazio, nel Piemonte e nel Veneto. Un secolo dopo parecchi tributi sono progettati in Italia, a Pittsburgh, a Monongah e a Washington, DC per garantire che la tragedia che aveva toccato la vita di tante famiglie non sia dimenticata.

A Washington, DC è stato stabilito il "Monongah Memorial Committee", presieduto dal Reverendo Lydio Tomasi, C.S., PhD, Pastore della chiesa Holy Rosary a Washington. La domenica, 2 dicembre, 2007, il comitato terrà una commemorazione speciale del disastro. Comincierà con una messa di mezzogiorno alla chiesa Holy Rosary, 595 3rd Street, NW. Il principale celebrante ed omelista sarà Sua Eccelenza Pietro Sambi, Nunzio Apostolico agli Stati Uniti. All' una un gruppo di studio converrà una riunione per fare luce ed imparare di più su questa gente, la loro vita, e le condizioni della comunità di Monongah. Osservazioni introduttive saranno offerte da Padre Lydio. Presiederà la discussione il Prof. Joseph Tropea, già Presidente del Dipartimento di Sociologia dell' Università George Washington. Insieme a lui ci saranno Joseph D'Andrea, già Console Onorario a Pittsburgh, PA ed il Prof. Davitt McAteer già Assistente Segretario per la Sicurezza e la Salute delle Miniere, del Dipartimento del Lavoro degli S.U. Un documentario che rifletta gli effetti di questa tragedia su Monongah e su i piccoli comuni e villaggi da dove erano venuti gli immigranti sarà presentato dopo la discussione del gruppo. Ci saranno anche una mostra ed un ricevimento.

Parecchie organizzazioni italo-americane nella zona di Washington, DC sono state invitate a sostenere questa manifestazione. Mi fa piacere che la Italian Cultural Society è una di quelle. Membri ed amici sono cordialmente invitati a partecipare in questa commmemorazione speciale.

Lucio D'Andrea è membro della Italian Cultural Society e del Monongah Memorial Committee

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THE MORONTI-CIOTTA PALACE

(Another in a continuing series of correspondence from San Gimignano by ICS member Don McPherson)

The February 2007 issue of Poche Parole contained an article on the AdLib Trio that sang a brilliant and joyous set of unaccompanied, medieval songs. At the reception that followed, I met the three singers including contralto Costanza Redini – a resident of San Gimignano, and this led to an invitation for Silvia and me to visit her X-XIII century Palazzo Moronti-Ciotta. Located in the oldest standing section of town, one side of the building forms a part of the antique circle of the town wall. It consists of structures of different periods, used increasingly as a private dwelling, and by about 1280, it included a courtyard, a Roman-Pisan chapel of the XI C, two towers (one of stone, the other of brick) visible from the exterior, and part of the primitive fortification of the original San Gimignano Castle (IX-X Century)

In the courtyard - intermingled with these oldest origins that date to the period of maximum splendor of San Gimignano - are structural elements added up to the XVII C – a period in which the palace passed from the ancient Moronti family to the Ciotta family. Frequent

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IL PALAZZO MORONTI-CIOTTA

(Un altro articolo di tutta una serie di articoli da San Gimignano a cura del socio ICS Don McPherson)

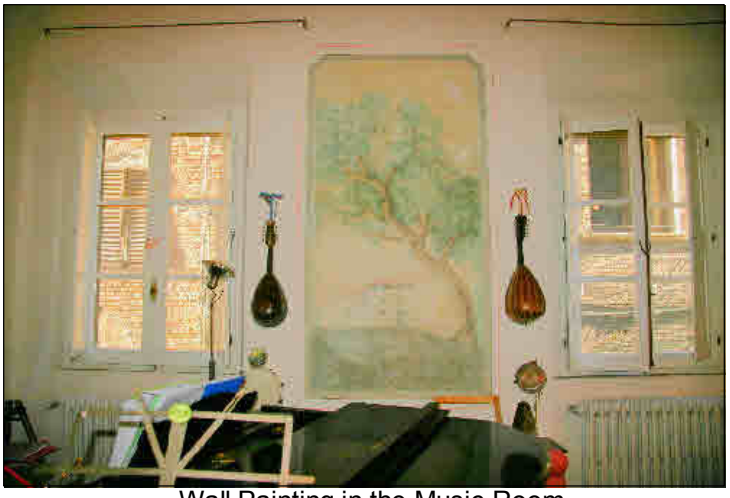
Il numero di Poche Parole di febbraio del 2007 conteneva un articolo sul Trio AdLib, che ha cantato una brillante e gioiosa serie di canzoni medioevali senza accompagnamento. Al ricevimento che seguì il concerto ho fatto la conoscenza delle tre cantanti, fra le quali, la Signorina Costanza Redini, residente di San Gimignano. Molto gentilmente, la signorina Redini ha invitato me e Silvia a visitare il suo palazzo Moronti-Ciotta del X-XIII secolo. Situato nel quartiere più vecchio della città, un lato dell' edificio forma una parte del cerchio delle antiche mura. Consiste di strutture di periodi diversi, e adoperato progressivamente come residenza privata. Nel 1280 circa il palazzo consisteva di un cortile, una cappella Romana-Pisana del XI secolo, due torri (una di pietra, l'altra di mattone) visibili dall' esterno, e parte del forte primitivo del castello originale di San Gimignano (secolo IX-X).

Nel cortile, interspersi fra i resti del castello, risalenti al periodo di massimo splendore di San Gimignano, sono elementi strutturali aggiunti fino al secolo XVII – un periodo in cui il palazzo passò dall' antica famiglia

Towers of Palazzo Moronti-Ciotta

ingenious additions contribute to give this courtyard a theatrical aspect. Palazzo Moronti-Ciotta is one of few examples of an unaltered, intact dwelling of the period in San Gimignano, considered of the highest historic and artistic interest.

Although the top floor has yet to be restored, two apartments are located in the mid-floors: one that is available to rent, the other that is Ms. Redini's residence. They share features of medieval architecture, with high beamed ceilings, several rooms with wall paintings from between the XIII and XVI century, spacious salons and enormous fire places. Of special interest is a wall covered with paintings of all manner of exotic birds, some with features of humans and others of animals. We were particularly impressed by the amount of space, as each apartment is probably



Wall Painting in the Music Room

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Salon of the Rental Apartment

Moronti alla famiglia Ciotta. Frequenti ingegnose aggiunte contribuiscono a dare a questo cortile un aspetto teatrale. Il Palazzo Moronti-Ciotta è uno dei pochi esempi di una residenza inalterata ed intatta del periodo a San Gimignano, considerato del piu alto interesse storico ed artistico.

Benché il piano superiore non sia stato ancora restaurato, due appartamenti sono collocati nei piani di mezzo, uno da affittare e l'altro la residenza della Signorina Redini. Questi due appartamenti conservano dettagli dell' architettura medioevale, come soffitti alti con (le) travi a vista, alcune stanze con pitture sulle pareti eseguite dal XIII al XVI secolo, saloni spaziosi, e focolari enormi. Specialmente interessante è una parete coperta di pitture di ogni specie di uccelli esotici, alcune con faccie umane e altre con faccie di animali. Siamo rimasti particolarmente impressionati dalla quantità di spazio. Ogni appartamento ha probabilmente sei volte lo spazio del nostro. Alcune finestre danno sul cortile o verso le colline e vallate

Detail of Another Wall Painting

six times the area of ours. Windows look on the courtyard or into the surrounding hills and valleys; or into via del Castello (among the oldest in town), leading from Piazza della Cisterna to what was once a castle. A terrace overlooks the normally hidden portions of several medieval buildings and the peaceful gardens of Ms. Redini and her neighbours. Finally, at street level and opening off both the courtyard and the street, is the above-mentioned family chapel, that would surely have been used also by pilgrims who would be visiting the adjacent bishops palace and would find food and shelter here. In the past century it has been a dairy and Ms Redini hopes to restore it to a concert room that would provide the perfect venue not only for the AdLib Trio, but also to other high quality concerts of vocal and instrumental early music and other events of this type.

We left this historical landmark in awe, marveling at the amount of history and living that had been experienced within the walls of this once-powerful palazzo, and thankful to Ms Redini for her kindness in allowing us to tour her home, her permission to photograph and publish these photos and for her review of this article.

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circostanti, oppure verso Via del Castello (fra le più antiche della città), che conduce da Piazza della Cisterna ai resti di un castello. Una terrazza sovrasta le parti, nomalmente nascoste, di alcuni edifici medioevali ed i tranquilli giardini della Signorina Redini e dei suoi vicini. Infine, a pianterreno, dando sulla strada e sul cortile, è la suddetta cappella di famiglia, che sicuramente sarebbe stata usata dai pellegrini che avrebbero visitato il vicino palazzo del vescovo dove sarebbero stati ospitati e avrebbero trovato cibo. Nel secolo scorso era diventata una latteria, e la Signorina Redini spera di restaurarla come sala di concerti, che fornirebbe l' ambiente perfetto non solo per il Trio AdLib, ma anche per altri concerti di musica di alta qualita' e per altre manifestazioni di questo genere.

Uscimmo da questo edificio storico pieni di meraviglia, immaginando quanta storia e quante vite siano passate entro le mura di questo un tempo potente palazzo e riconoscenti alla Signorina Redini per il tour della sua casa, con il permesso di fotografare e pubblicare queste foto, e per la revisione di questo articolo.

SISTER MARGHERITA MARCHIONE

by Arrigo Mongini

In a recent trip to Florham Park, NJ, home of a campus of Fairleigh Dickinson University, I learned of a remarkable person of Italian extraction who lives nearby in Villa Walsh, a residence for nuns associated with a Catholic school for girls. She is Sr. Margherita Marchione, now Professor Emerita of Italian language at Fairleigh Dickinson, author of more than 35 books, and still active as an author and lecturer, though well into her eighties. Among her many accomplishments, Sister Margherita is noted for her writings about the Italian American Phillip Mazzei, an adviser to Thomas Jefferson and other founding fathers of the USA. I contacted her to see if she would write an article on Mazzei for us, and she sent me some notes on the subject as well as some material on another more recent passion of hers – defending the reputation of Pope Pius XII in the face of criticism of his alleged inaction regarding the Jews in World War II. I then obtained a copy of her autobiography *The Fighting Nun: My Story*, Cornwall Books, 2000 and decided that sister Margherita herself deserved a biographic article in Poche Parole to acquaint our readers with her life and her work.

Margherita Marchione was born on a farm in Little Ferry NJ in 1922 of working class parents from the province of Salerno. At age 13, the independent minded girl announced, to her parents' consternation, that she was going to become a nun and would be leaving home the next day to enroll in high school at Villa Lucia, motherhouse of the Religious Teachers Filippini, an order of nuns founded in 1692 by St. Lucia Filippini and Cardinal Marcantonio Barbarigo. Though convent life must have been lonely and intimidating for a girl of that

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age she soon developed the self confidence which, along with innate intelligence, ambition, and passion for service to God and humanity, allowed her career to develop well beyond the borders of the convent. Her first assignment was as a sixth grade teacher in Baltimore, then as a music teacher in Jersey City, while taking courses in summer towards her B.A. in Italian Literature, which she received in 1943. Sr. Margherita became a full time high school teacher at Villa Walsh in Morristown, NJ and was also assigned to translate sermons for a pastor in Garfield NJ. In 1945 she enrolled in Columbia University, where she became associated with the Casa Italiana and its director, Giuseppe Prezzolini, and received her M.A. and Ph.D. in Italian Language and Literature. Her dissertation, later to become her first published book, was on the life and work of the Milanese poet Clemente Rebora, a late convert to Catholicism and priest. This work entailed research in Italy, including an interview with the dying poet, the first of several trips abroad in connection with later publications. Sr. Margherita progressed from high school teacher to university professor at Fairleigh Dickinson, beginning in 1965, and by 1968 was teaching six classes there.

Of all Sr. Margherita's many publications her work on Phillip Mazzei -- nine books and collections of writings, in English and Italian – stands out. Rather than my attempting to summarize his life and work, let me quote from a note she sent me:

"Philip Mazzei was a philosopher whose contribution as a World Citizen should be included in history classes in the USA. To do justice to Philip Mazzei's life one must consider several important facts: He was a friend and correspondent of the first five presidents of the United States - Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe. He was an enterprising and perceptive man who traveled on three continents, lived in ten countries, participated in such world-shaking events as the American and the French revolutions, and the short-lived Polish constitutional reform of 1791. Mazzei was a surgeon in Constantinople and Smyrna, a merchant and language teacher in London, an agriculturist and zealous Whig in Virginia, a propagandist and diplomat in Paris, a royal chamberlain and privy councilor in Warsaw. Mazzei's contacts were with the high and mighty: from the first five presidents of the United States to the Czar of the Russians, from Louis XVI of France to Stanislaus Augustus of Poland, from the Grand Duke of Tuscany to the boy King of the Two Sicilies. Mazzei was a transmitter of European ideas in America as well as a transmitter of American Ideas in Europe. He was the founder of The Constitutional Society of 1783. He was the author of a four-volume work in French on the United States. He was named Paris agent of Stanislaus Augustus, king of Poland. He was involved in historical events and adventure; his memoirs have sketches of people high and low; of courage and misfortune, of hatred and love: filial, paternal, conjugal, romantic, and illicit. Upon his retirement in Pisa, Mazzei married his maid Antonia who gave birth to his daughter Elisabetta. At Jefferson's request, Mazzei hired two sculptors in 1805 for work in the national capital, Washington, D.C. Mazzei was not just Jefferson's "Zealous Whig," but an international propagandist who helps us understand the dynamics of the 18th century revolutionary ethos, of which America was the first successful manifestation. Mazzei's idea for the colonies to have "but one and the same constitution" goes back to his Instructions… written in May 1776, copies of which were sent to John Page and Patrick Henry. To the very end, Mazzei was proud to sign himself as Philip Mazzei, Citizen of the United States of America. He died in Pisa, Italy, in 1816 at age 86."

Sr. Margherita's efforts in publicizing the life of Mazzei are exceeded only by her persistence in defending Pope Pius XII's conduct during World War II toward the Nazis and the Jewish community. Her own order of nuns had sheltered and fed twenty five Jews for over a year in their convent in Rome. In her autobiography she notes that the Vatican quietly sheltered Jews on a larger scale and that, in 1945 the World Jewish Congress presented a large monetary gift to the Vatican "in recognition of the work of the Holy See in rescuing Jews from Fascist and Nazi persecution." In a 1998 article in the New York Times, Paul Elie wrote "Sister Margherita Marchione of Morristown, N.J., tirelessly writes pro-Pius letters to the editor." In a TV debate with the author of *"Hitler's Pope: the Secret History of Pius XII*" she cited the numerous written protests sent by the Vatican to the Nazis against racial and religious persecution, the Pope's wartime radio speeches which provoked the Nazis to call him a "mouthpiece of the Jewish war criminals" and claimed that the Pope did not explicitly speak out against persecution of Jews in order not to provoke the loss of more lives, implicitly agreeing with the World Jewish Congress, the World Council of Churches, and the International red Cross that provocation should be avoided. She wrote *"Yours is a Precious Witness (Memoirs of Jews and Catholics in Wartime Italy)"*, *"Pio XII e gli Ebrei"*, and *"Pope Pius XII: Architect for Peace"*

For readers interested to know more about this remarkable Italian American, Sr. Margherita's autobiography is available on Amazon.com. It is full of anecdotes about not only herself, but also her family and the many secular and religious personalities events and projects that have been a part of her life.

LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

St. Leo's Church (in Baltimore's Little Italy): Bi-annual Ravioli-Spaghetti Dinner. Sunday, Nov. 4, 12 PM to 6 PM, school hall, 910 Stiles St. $8 adults, $4 children. For info. call 410-675-7275.

US Army Band: Tribute Concert in Homage to Luciano Pavarotti featuring Sgt. Antonio Giuliano, tenor and Kathryn Lewis, piano. Tuesday, Nov. 6, 7:30 PM, Memorial Chapel, Ft. Myer, VA, FREE! click on http://www.usarmyband.com/about/directions_to_memorial_chapel.html for driving directions and proper protocol for entering Ft. Myer. The concert information line is 703-696-3399.

Italian Cultural Institute: Culture in Verse: Dante Alighieri, Guido Gozzano, Giovanni Raboni; a poetry reading with Michael Palma, poet and translator of Dante's Inferno in terza rima. Introduction and discussion with Dana Gioia, poet and Chair, National Endowment for the Arts. Reception to follow. Wed. Nov. 7, 7:00 PM at the ICI, 3000 Whitehaven St. NW Washington, DC. RSVP and ID required, call 202-518-0998 or iicwashington@esteri.it .

Holy Rosary Church: Bus trip to The Miracle of Christmas play at the Sight and Sound Theater, Lancaster, PA. Friday, Nov. 23, departs from Holy Rosary, 3rd and F St. NW, Washington, DC, at 9:30 AM, returns 6:00 PM $75 adult, $54 teen (13-18), $42 child (12 and under).Reservations required. Call Sergio or Maria Fresco at 301-262-3150.

Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society: Christmas Gala, Saturday, Dec. 1, 7:30 PM, Martin's Crosswinds, 7400 Greenway Center Dr., Greenbelt MD $70, Paid reservation by Nov. 23, call Ennio DiTullio at 703-281-5847.

Monongah Memorial Committee: Commemoration of the Monongah mine disaster. Sunday December 2. Noon Mass at Holy Rosary, followed by 1 PM panel discussion, documentary film, and reception. See page 4 of this issue for more details.

And don't forget our Italian Cultural Society social meeting events listed on page 1 of this issue. We need volunteers to help set up and take down at these events. Please call Joe Onofrietti at 703-300-7052 to join the hospitality team.

WELCOME TO NEW ICS MEMBERS

It is with great pleasure that I introduce those Members who have joined us in the last month. As I welcome them, I hope that they will take advantage of all that the Society has to offer and that they will contribute with their knowledge and expertise to the success of the Society's mission.

Monique Garrity, Sandra Stetic, Loretta De Luca, Maria Gagarin, Susana Florez, Monika Medrek, Ernst Evan, Anna Piasecka, Jose' and Josephina Bonangelino, Susan Witt, Lucy Vecera, William Amatruda, Nelly Courtney

Benvenuti! Cesarina Horing

ICS Membership Chair

ICS Poche Parole Publication
Arrigo Mongini, Editor
Nick Monaco, Assistant Editor
Elio Grandi, Romeo Segnan, Italian Editors

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The deadline for the submission of all articles and ads for a newsletter issue is the 25th of the month preceding publication of the issue. Please send submissions via the Internet to e-mail address: **icspoparole@verizon.net** or on a computer diskette/CD to:

Editor, Poche Parole
4848 Battery Lane, Suite 100
Bethesda, MD 20814

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ICS membership application

Name _____ Occupation _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Address change ☐ New member ☐ Renewal ☐
Email: _____ Ph.: _____

Mail application to:

c/o ICS Treasurer
4848 Battery Lane
Suite #100
Bethesda, MD 20814

Please make check payable to:
The Italian Cultural Society

Type of membership

☐ Single	$ 35.00
☐ Family	$ 50.00
☐ Student, full time	$ 20.00
☐ Platinum Sponsor	$ 1,000
☐ Gold Sponsor	$ 500.00
☐ Silver Sponsor	$ 250.00

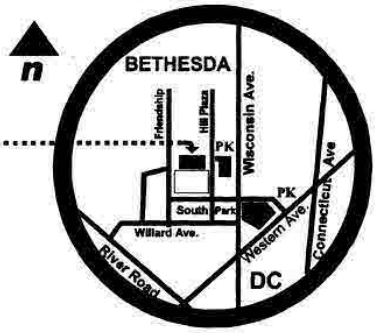
Interest group

☐ Theater	☐ Incontri a cena
☐ Literature	☐ Conversation
☐ Opera	☐ Travelling
☐ 20-40s	☐ Dancing
☐ Children (3-13)	☐ Cultural progr.
☐ Museums	☐ Fund Raising
☐ Outdoor activities	

Please mark the group you are interested in

meeting location

friendship heights village center
4433 South Park Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815



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Return Service Requested

The expiration date of your membership is shown on the address label. Please renew using the form at top of this page.