



# *poche parole*

The Italian Cultural Society of Washington, DC

*Preserving and Promoting Italian Culture for All*

[www.italianculturalsociety.org](http://www.italianculturalsociety.org)

## **BUON NATALE !**

### **ICS EVENTS**

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

**DEC 14: FESTA DI NATALE ! featuring Babbo Natale and La Befana for the children plus potluck Italian dishes and guest performers. Note the date...this time it is the SECOND Sunday of the month. See details on page 2.**

**There will be no "Movie of the Month" and no Italian classes at the December meeting.**

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

November 16, 2008. I just got back from our monthly social, where it was very rewarding to see you turn up in considerable numbers for Frank Van Riper's talk on Venice. The Board works to see you, our members, satisfied and enjoying yourselves at these functions. So I very much hope to see even a larger number of you for the Christmas party on December 14. Please remember that both Babbo Natale and the Befana will be there to entertain you and your children and to bring gifts to them. Let your culinary abilities be admired by contributing your "leccornie" to the party so that we can all enjoy them. Look for details on this and on the gifts in another portion of Poche Parole.

Today we have elected Victor Canino to the Board of Directors. Victor's background and biosketch is featured in another article of this issue of Poche Parole. I am very pleased that Victor has taken on this challenge and will be back to communicate to you the choice for his endeavor within the Board. Again I want to thank Victor for taking an active role in the Society.

I look forward to our Christmas Party and to personally welcoming you and your families.

*Luigi De Luca*

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### **IN THIS ISSUE**

	<u>page</u>
Christmas Program .....	2
Growing up Italian in Washington .....	3
Notes on Antonio Meucci .....	5
Pictures of Venice .....	7
News from Italy and Local Events of Interest .....	7
Meet Victor Canino, Our Newest Board Member.....	8
Survey of Members and Survey Raffle .....	9
Pino Cicala Anniversary .....	11

**ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS PARTY  
MEMBER PARTICIPATION IS NEEDED!**



The Christmas Holiday season is just around the corner. Start planning now to attend our Society's Christmas Party at the December 14 Social. **Member participation is needed to make this annual event a success by bringing in your own personal taste of Italy to our Christmas Party. The Society will provide pasta and all desserts and beverages.**

**ICS members are requested to bring the following dishes to share with seven people.**

**(Note: please do not bring any desserts.)**

**For last names A thru M: Meat dishes or casseroles.**

**For last names N thru Z: Salads or Antipasti.**

Along with the delicious refreshments, the party will feature a Christmas program and the singing of christmas carols.

**Most importantly Babbo Natale and the Befana will make a special visit for the children.**

**Parents Please Note:** If you want your children to receive a special gift from Babbo Natale, please bring the gifts already wrapped with the name of the child on the package. Please drop gifts off at the entrance table by 2:30 PM Babbo Natale has time to collect the gifts and organize them.

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**WELCOME TO NEW ICS MEMBERS**

It is with great pleasure that I introduce those Members who have joined us recently. 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.

Loan Dommen, Kostantina Kostova

*Benvenuti !*

*Cesarina Horing, ICS MEMBERSHIP CHAIR*

**FESTA DI NATALE DELLA SOCIETÀ CULTURALE  
ITALIANA**

**INVOGLIAMO I SOCI A PARTECIPARE!**



La stagione natalizia è alle porte e sarà bene decidere ora se partecipare il 14 dicembre alla festa natalizia della società. **Abbiamo bisogno della partecipazione dei soci per rendere questa festa annuale un successo contribuendovi il gusto personale e italiano.** La società provvederà la pasta e tutti i dolci e le bevande.

**Ai soci della società chiediamo di portare i seguenti piatti sufficienti per sette persone.  
(N.B. per favore, niente dolci).**

**Per i cognomi dalla A alla M: piatti di carne e casseruole.**

**Per i cognomi dalla N alla Z: insalate o antipasti.**

Con tutti questi deliziosi rinfreschi avremo anche un programma natalizio con la partecipazione di noi tutti nel coro delle canzoni natalizie.

**In modo piu' importante, Babbo Natale e La Befana faranno una visita speciale per i bambini**

**Attenzione:** i genitori che desiderano che i loro figli ricevano un dono speciale da Babbo Natale sono pregati di portare il dono già incartato e con il nome del bambino sul pacco. Siete pregati di lasciare i doni al tavolo nell'entrata prima delle 14:30. Babbo Natale avra tempo per raccogliere ed organizzare i doni.

**LA BEFANA**

La Befana vien di notte  
con le scarpe tutte rotte  
col vestito alla "romana"  
viva viva la Befana!

Porta cenere e carboni  
ai bambini cattivoni  
ai bambini belli e buoni  
porta chicchi e tanti doni!



**THE BEFANA**

The Befana comes at night  
With her shoes all torn  
With her dress "Roman" style  
Hurray for the Befana!

She brings ashes and coals  
For the mischievous children  
And for the nice and good children  
She brings candies and many gifts

## **COSA HA SIGNIFICATO PER ME, FIGLIA DI GENITORI ITALIANI, CRESCERE NEGLI STATI UNITI**

*di Luisa Ferretti*

Sono stata allevata da genitori italiani venuti negli Stati Uniti come professionisti (dottori in chimica) negli ultimi anni del 1950. I primi anni della mia vita ho vissuto a Bethesda, Maryland ed ho frequentato le scuole pubbliche della Contea Montgomery. Al principio tutti mi sembravano come me-italiani. Soltanto dopo aver trascorso uno o due anni di scuole elementari ho cominciato a notare che esisteva una differenza tra la cultura di casa mia e quella della scuola, ma ci sono voluti molti più anni per afferrare la complessità di essere cresciuta in una cultura completamente diversa da quella dei miei genitori, e per capire come questa esperienza avesse influito sulla mia formazione. In retrospettiva, vedo che tra i tanti talenti che la mia discendenza italiana mi ha procurato, ci sono stati anche molte provocazioni. A questo proposito, vorrei parlare di entrambi questi aspetti della mia esperienza.

Nel riconoscimento della "differenza" dai miei pari, avvenuta nelle scuole elementari, c'era un gran senso di orgoglio d'essere italiana, una sensazione di essere "fortunata". speciale, e quest'orgoglio è esclusivamente aumentato quando sono stata fortunata. Ho cominciato a capire sotto che aspetto la cultura dei miei genitori fosse ricca di un senso di appartenenza e connessione. Avevamo un'estesa rete di famiglie italiane amiche, un infinito numero di "Zie" (in sostituzione della Nonna e delle Zie lontane in Italia.); queste famiglie hanno formato la base della nostra vita sociale e comunitaria. Celebravamo eventi significativi e feste condividendo magnifici pasti, di cui ho molte stupende memorie. Ogni anno di scuola ho acquistato un più profondo apprezzamento degli straordinari contributi dati dagli italiani nei secoli, contributi che hanno lasciato l'impronta in ogni aspetto della vita umana. Il mio orgoglio di sentirmi "speciale" unicamente aumentava.

Quando uno cresce in una famiglia biculturale è difficile identificarsi solo con una delle due culture. Eppure io non posso evitare di attribuire alla mia discendenza "italiana" certi valori che sono alla base del mio essere-un profondo ed immutabile amore per i miei genitori; rispetto per l'autorità o per le persone più anziane in generale; qualità personali come cortesia, onestà e lealtà; ricerca di eccellenza accademica e di carriera; apprezzamento dell'arte, della musica e della letteratura; e dar valore alla comunità e agli amici intimi. Questi sono alcuni dei numerosi doni da me ricevuti e che considero connessi al fatto di essere cresciuta italiana.

## **WHAT IT MEANT TO ME TO BE RAISED IN THE UNITED STATES AS A CHILD OF ITALIAN PARENTS**

*Italian and English by Louise Ferretti*

I was raised by native Italian parents who came to the United States as professionals during the 1950's. We lived in Bethesda, Maryland, and I was educated in the Montgomery County public schools. In the beginning, I saw everyone as being like me – Italian. It was not until a year or two of elementary school had passed that the differences between the cultures at my home and school became noticeable. It took many more years to grasp the complexity of having grown up in a culture entirely different from that of my parents, and to understand how this experience shaped me. In looking back, I see that for all of the gifts my Italian heritage brought to me, there were challenges as well. I would like to speak to both of these aspects of experience.

In that recognition of my "difference" from peers that occurred in elementary school, there was a great sense of pride in being Italian, a sense of being lucky, "special," and this pride only grew as I was able to cognitively grasp just how profoundly I had been blessed. I came to see the ways in which the culture of my parents was rich with a sense of belonging and connection. We had an extensive network of Italian family friends (countless "Zie" substituting for my Nonna and Zie far away in Italy); these families formed the basis of our social and community life. We celebrated milestones and holidays in the sharing of magnificent meals, of which I have many wonderful memories. With each year of schooling, I gained a deeper appreciation of the extraordinary contributions made by Italians through time, contributions that have impacted every aspect of humanity. My pride and feeling of "specialness" only grew.

When you are raised in a dual-culture family, it is difficult to identify solely with one side of your heritage. Still, I cannot help but attribute to my "Italian" side certain values that are at the core of who I am – a deep and abiding love for my parents; respect for the authority of elders in general; personal qualities such as courtesy, honesty, and faithfulness; pursuit of academic and career excellence; appreciation for art, music, and literature; and valuing of community and close friendship. These are among the many gifts of growing up Italian.

There were, of course, challenging aspects of growing up straddling two different cultures. At its farthest reaches, that intense feeling of "specialness" shifted into an intense feeling of "separateness," of being apart and, at times, alienated from the world around. In elementary school, I felt tremendous judgment toward peers from mainstream (WASPish) American families. I could neither comprehend nor accept their behavior, which appeared to me as overly forward ("in-your-

C'erano, naturalmente, aspetti provocatori nel crescere oscillando tra due culture diverse. Dall'epoca piu` remota questo intenso sentimento di "particolarita`" si e` trasformato in un sentimento di "separazione" o di non appartenenza, a volte, al mondo intorno a me. Nelle scuole elementari ho formulato giudizi verso i miei pari che appartenevano alla maggioranza delle famiglie americane. Non potevo ne` capire ne` accettare il loro comportamento, che mi sembrava troppo sfrontato, non rispettoso, volgare ed offensivo. Le loro famiglie erano piu` ricche della mia, ma allo stesso tempo sembravano avida e scontente di tutto. I loro genitori erano piu` attivi nella vita scolastica dei miei e questo mi dispiaceva molto. Io ero fiera della mia famiglia e volevo che i miei genitori fossero conosciuti ed apprezzati. Nella vita scolastica, al di fuori della protezione della mia comunita` italiana, gravitavo su compagni stranieri o di famiglie minoritarie. A causa del luogo di residenza, questo significa che a scuola avevo prevalentemente compagni ebrei e asiatici. Mi sentivo molto piu` a mio agio con questi compagni che non appartenevano alla norma. Mi sembrava veramente possibile capirli ed essere capita da loro.

Il mio stato sociale italiano non era immediatamente evidente agli altri: il piu` della volte rappresentava un "invisibile" differenza. Di conseguenza ho sentito una grandissima affinita` per quei compagni coi quali ho condiviso la mia famiglia, quei non-italiani che sono venuti a casa mia, hanno parlato coi miei genitori, hanno sentito il loro accento italiano, hanno condiviso un pasto con noi. Solo quelli che conoscevano il mio lato italiano sarebbero stati capaci di conoscere me. A quell'epoca, nei settanta, c'era piu` esitazione nel mettere in luce la propria "differenza". Oggi, per fortuna, la diversita` culturale e` tenuta in alta considerazione. Le madri italiane che allevano i bambini in America sono attivamente sollecitate a partecipare agli eventi nelle classi; sono considerate tenutarie di speciali valori culturali che vale la pena condividere.

Dopo gli studi universitari mi e` stato chiesto da un amico, figlio di genitori italiani ed allevato anche lui in America: "Allora, come affronti la tua italianita`?" Ci sto mettendo un' intera vita per rispondere. Ho impiegato quarant'anni per dare significato alla mia esperienza bi-culturale ed, in questi giorni, le benedizioni sembrano ampiamente sovrappassare le provocazioni. La mia speranza, per i bambini di oggi cresciuti in America da genitori italiani e` che amino e facciano tesoro del loro retaggio italiano, tengano vivi nelle loro menti e nei loro cuori i suoi valori e li trasferiscono con gioia ai loro figli.

face"), disrespectful, loud, and rude. Their families were wealthier than mine, more privileged, but at the same time they seemed greedy and dissatisfied with everything. Their parents were much more active in school life than parents like mine, which was painful for me. I was proud of my family and wanted my parents to be known and appreciated. In life at school, outside the safety of my Italian community, I gravitated to peers from foreign or minority families. Because of where I lived, this meant I had predominantly Jewish and Asian friends at school. I felt much more at home with these peers who were outside the mainstream. It actually seemed possible that I could understand them, and be understood by them.

My Italian status was not readily apparent to others. Most of the time it was an "invisible" difference. So as a result, I felt a very strong affinity to those peers with whom I had shared my family, those non-Italians who had come to my home, talked with my parents, heard their Italian accent, shared a meal with us. Only those who knew my Italian part were capable of knowing me. At that time (1970s), there was more hesitation to reveal one's "difference." Nowadays, fortunately, cultural diversity is highly valued. Italian mothers raising children in America are actively sought to participate in classrooms; they are viewed as holders of special cultural knowledge that is worthy of sharing.

After college I was asked by a friend, the son of Italian parents who was also raised in America, "So how do you deal with your Italianness?" His question is taking me a lifetime to answer. I have spent forty years making sense of my bi-cultural experience, and these days, the blessings seem to vastly outweigh the challenges. My hope for today's children being raised in the U.S. by Italian parents is that they will love and cherish their Italian heritage, keep its many gifts alive in their hearts and minds, and pass it on with joy to their own children.

***Luisa Ferretti is a clinical psychologist in private practice and daughter of ICS member Magda Ferretti, Emerita Professor of Italian at George Washington University***

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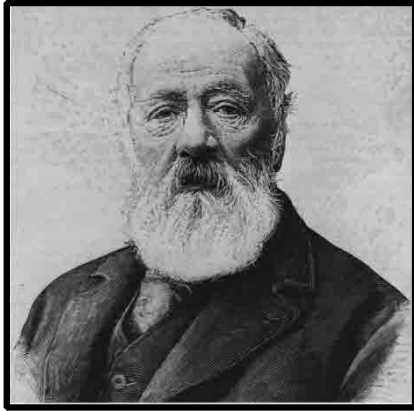
**[www.italianamericancommunications.org](http://www.italianamericancommunications.org)**

***Pino Cicala's web page is rich with information on Italian and Italian-American events in the DC area***

## NOTES ON ANTONIO MEUCCI

by Luciano Mangiafico

**Antonio Meucci** (1808-1896), who was born in Florence, is better known as the man who gave Giuseppe Garibaldi refuge in Staten Island, New York, in 1850-51 and provided him with a job in his small candle-making factory. He is in fact the inventor of the telephone.



Meucci's little known life, accomplishments, and failures, are the stuff of romances or tragedies. He worked in Florence as a stagehand and, in 1835, he moved to Havana, Cuba, where he had been offered a job as scenic and stage technician at the Tacon Theater.

A tinkerer by nature, in his spare time Meucci invented an improved method for galvanizing metals, which had military applications, and a crude form of electroshock therapy. This, by accident, led to the discovery that sounds could be carried by wires. While he was treating one friend with his "new" therapy, he heard another person speaking in the next room. The door was closed and the only thing connecting the two rooms was a copper wire. Realizing that he may have made an important discovery, he continued to work on a device to exploit his discovery, and by 1855 he had a working model of a rudimentary telephone. By then he had left Cuba and had moved to Staten Island (New York), where he purchased a home, pursued various manufacturing business ventures to make a living (making candles, brewing beer, etc.), and provided a haven and jobs for Italian political exiles, including Giuseppe Garibaldi. Unfortunately, Meucci, while a visionary and a capable amateur scientist, had no entrepreneurial or managerial skills and knew little English. All his ventures either made little money or failed.

This did not deter him and he continued to work in perfecting his "telephone": by 1855 he had connected several rooms of his house to his

## ANTONIO MEUCCI

Note di Luciano Mangiafico (translation)

**Antonio Meucci** (1808-1896) nacque a Firenze ed è conosciuto soprattutto come l' colui che offrì asilo a Giuseppe Garibaldi a Staten Island, nello stato di Nuova York, nel 1850-1851 e che gli diede lavoro nella sua piccola fabbrica di candele. A tutti gli effetti però, Meucci è l'inventore del telefono.

La vita poco conosciuta di Meucci, i suoi successi e insuccessi sono come trame di romanzi e di tragedie. Lavoro nei teatri di Firenze come macchinista e, nel 1835, emigrò ad Avana, Cuba, dove gli era stato offerto lavoro come tecnico di palcoscenico nel Teatro Tacon.

Portato per natura alla meccanica, nel suo tempo libero Meucci inventò e migliorò un metodo per galvanizzare metalli per uso militare, e una terapia grossolana di elettroshock. Questo portò alla scoperta fortuita che i suoni potevano essere trasmessi via filo. Mentre stava curando un suo amico con questa "nuova" terapia, sentì un' altra persona che parlava nella camera accanto. La porta era chiusa, e l'unica cosa che collegava le due stanze era un filo di rame. Resosi conto che forse aveva fatto una scoperta importante, continuò a lavorare su un sistema per sfruttare la sua scoperta e, prima del 1855, aveva un modello funzionante di un telefono rudimentale. A quell'epoca aveva lasciato Cuba e si era spostato a Staten Island (Nuova York), dove comprò casa, e intraprese varie iniziative industriali per campare (fare candele, fare la birra, ecc.) e diede asilo e lavoro a esiliati politici italiani, compreso Giuseppe Garibaldi. Sfortunatamente Meucci, pur essendo un visionario ed uno scienziato dilettante ma capace, non aveva nessuna capacità imprenditoriale o manageriale e conosceva poco l' inglese. Tutte le sue imprese rendevano poco o fallivano.

Questo fatto non lo scoraggiò, e continuò a lavorare per perfezionare il suo "telefono". Già nel 1855 aveva collegato alcune stanze della sua casa al laboratorio per poter comunicare con la moglie che, essendo parzialmente paralizzata, aveva frequentemente bisogno di assistenza. Nel 1860 Meucci, ormai sicuro delle possibilità commerciali della sua invenzione, diede una dimostrazione pubblica del suo funzionamento nella speranza di attirare un sostegno finanziario però non ne uscì nulla di concreto. Poi capitò il disastro. Meucci fu gravemente ustionato in un'esplosione a bordo del traghetto di Staten Island, e durante la sua convalescenza in ospedale, sua moglie, per pagare le spese, vendette i prototipi delle sue invenzioni, compreso il telefono, ad un mercante di oggetti di seconda mano per 6 Dollari. Meucci cercò di ricomprare i suoi oggetti dopo la sua guarigione, ma fu informato che erano stati rivenduti ad "uno sconosciuto".



workshop so that he could communicate with his wife, who, being partially paralyzed, required frequent personal assistance. In 1860 Meucci, by then confident of the commercial possibilities of his invention, held a public demonstration of how the device worked, in the hope of attracting financial backing, but nothing concrete came of it. Disaster then struck. Meucci was seriously burned in an explosion aboard the Staten Island ferry and, while he was hospitalized, his wife, to pay expenses, sold for \$ 6 the prototypes of his devices, including the telephone, to a second hand merchandise dealer. Meucci tried to repurchase his objects after he got well, but was told that they had been resold to an "unknown man."

Meucci then started to work feverishly to reconstruct his telephone and put down on paper its design and specifications, fearing that someone would steal his invention and file a patent. Unable, however, to raise the \$250 required to apply for a patent himself. In December 1871 he filed a notice of intent to do so, renewing it in 1872 and 1873. He also gave a model of his telephone to a vice president of the newly formed Western Union Telegraph Company, hoping to interest that company in using their telegraph wires for a long distance test. Yet, despite his continual badgering of Western Union, he never received an answer and was finally told that his telephone model and accompanying documents had been lost. When in 1876 Alexander Graham Bell applied for a patent for the telephone, Meucci hired a lawyer to protest and finally learned through a friend that the documents he had filed at the U.S. Patent Office in 1871, 1872, and 1873, had also been lost...

Later investigations revealed collusion between Bell's company officials and the patent office, and between Bell and Western Union. In 1886, Meucci sued Bell, but despite the evidence presented by Meucci's attorney and Meucci's own testimony, he did not win the civil suit. The United States then started a criminal patent fraud investigation and prosecution of Bell but the case dragged on for years and when Meucci died in 1896 the matter was dropped!

In June 2002, the US House of Representatives passed a resolution that said, in part, "that the life and achievements of Antonio Meucci should be recognized and his work on the invention of the telephone should be acknowledged "

***Luciano Mangiafico is former member of the US diplomatic service. His last assignment was as Consul General in Palermo.***

Temendo che qualcuno potesse rubare la sua invenzione e registrarne il brevetto, Meucci allora comincio' a lavorare febbrilmente per ricreare il suo telefono, e mise su carta il progetto e le specifiche,. Pero', non potendo raccogliere i 250 Dollari necessari per presentare personalmente la domanda di brevetto, nel 1871 presento l'intento di farlo, che rinnovo' nel 1872 e nel 1873. Diede pure un modello del suo telefono ad un vice-presidente della Western Union Telegraph Company, una compagnia costituita da poco, con la speranza che la compagnia usasse i suoi fili del telegrafo per una prova su lunga distanza. Eppure, malgrado le sue continue pressioni su Western Union, non ricevette mai una risposta e, alla fine, fu informato che il suo modello e i suoi documenti erano andati persi. Quando, nel 1876, Alexander Graham Bell richiese un brevetto per il telefono, Meucci si avvalse di un avvocato per protestare e alla fine apprese da un amico che anche i documenti che aveva depositato presso l' ufficio brevetti erano andati persi.

Indagini successive rivelarono collusione tra i funzionari della compagnia di Bell e l' ufficio brevetti, e tra Bell e la Western Union. Nel 1876 Meucci querelo' Bell, ma malgrado l'evidenza presentata dall' avvocato di Meucci e la testimonianza di Meucci stesso, non vinse la causa. Il governo degli Stati Uniti poi comincio' ad investigare la possibilita' di frode di brevetto da parte di Bell, ma la causa continuo' per anni e fu abbandonata nel 1896. alla morte di Meucci.

Nel giugno 2002, la Camera dei Deputati degli Stati Uniti approvo' una mozione che dichiarava in parte "che la vita ed i successi di Antonio Meucci vanno riconosciuti e dato merito al suo lavoro per l'invenzione del telefono ."

***Il Dott. Luciano Mangiafico e' stato membro del servizio diplomatico degli S.U. Il suo ultimo incarico era come Console Generale a Palermo.***

***Queste note sono parte della bozza di un libro che Il Dott. Mangiafico sta preparando sulla vita di vari personaggi storici italiani. Queste note sono pubblicate col permesso dell'autore e non possono essere copiate o riprodotte senza permesso del Dott. Mangiafico.***

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Photo by Frank Van Riper

### NEWS BRIEFS FROM ITALY

(Summarized from *Corriere della Sera* on line)

2008 is a record year for immigration to Italy, with over 40,000 applications for refugee status thru September, compared to 14,000 for all of last year. The applicants were encouraged by the government's recent decree allowing up to 170,000 more legal immigrants, of which 95,000 are reserved for domestic workers or care givers. The largest sources of refugees are Nigeria, Somalia, Eritrea, and Tunisia, while the main points of entry are Sicily, Sardinia, and Calabria. Italy has an estimated 650,000 illegal residents, many of whom apply after they arrive.

Tax evasion in Italy amounts to an estimated 100 billion Euros annually. Last year the government recovered only about 6.3 billion but the amount recovered is rising. The "black" economy is estimated to be 20% of GDP. There are numerous scams, such as companies reporting non-existent capital purchases, for example, 3,329 restaurants without a kitchen or tables, and 555 laundries without washing machines. The authorities often uncover the frauds by cross checking tax data against data bases of luxury goods stores and travel agencies.

### LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

#### **ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE:**

From the Rialto to Calatrava: Celebrating the Bridges of Venice. Dr. Eric Denker discusses the development and importance of the bridges of Venice from the earliest imagery to the latest architectural creations, including Calatrava's Constitution Bridge across the Grand Canal. **Wednesday, December 3, 6:30 PM 2142 Wyoming Ave. NW, Washington, DC RSVP 202-518-0998**

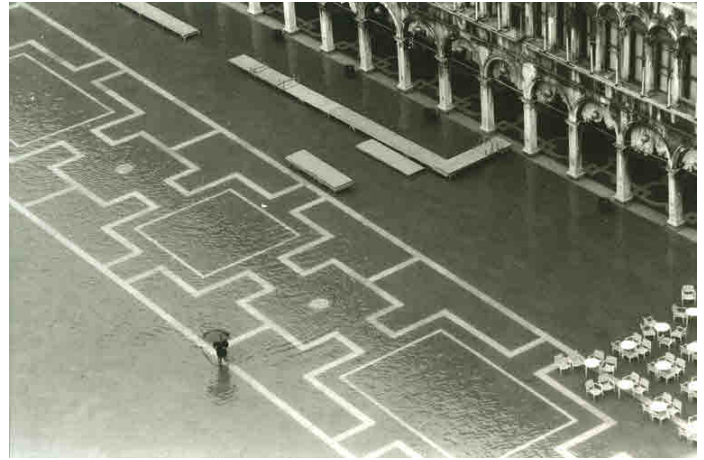


Photo by Judith Goodman  
**These are two favorite photos of Venice by our guest speakers in November: "Fire on Water" at left, and "Acqua Alta from Campanile" above.**

### NOTIZIE BREVI DALL' ITALIA (Riassunti dal *Corriere della Sera* on line)

Il 2008 e' un anno record per l'ingresso degli immigrati in Italia, con piu' di 40,000 che hanno presentato istanza per il riconoscimento dello status di rifugiato fino a settembre in confronto a 14,000 in tutto l' anno scorso. I richiedenti erano incoraggiati dal recente decreto del governo che ammette fino a ulteriori 170,000 immigranti legali, fra i quali 95,000 posti sono riservati ai lavoratori domestici o badanti. I paesi di origine dei gruppi piu' numerosi sono Nigeria, Somalia, Eritrea, e Tunisia, mentre le principali regioni di entrata sono Sicilia, Sardegna, e Calabria. L' Italia ha circa 650,000 residenti illegali. Molti chiedono asilo dopo il loro arrivo.

L' evasione delle tasse in Italia ammonta sui cento miliardi di Euro all' anno. L' anno scorso il governo ha recuperato solo 6.3 miliardi, ma la somma annuale recuperata e' in crescita. L' economia "nera" e' valutata sul 20% del prodotto nazionale. Le truffe sono numerose, per esempio ditte che riportano spese per beni immobili non-esistenti come 3.329 ristoranti senza cucina o tavole, e 555 lavanderie senza macchine da lavare. Frequentemente la autorità' trovano le frodi dopo aver confrontato i dati delle tasse con quelli ottenuti da negozi di lusso e da agenzie di viaggio.

#### **NATIONAL ITALIAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION:**

NIAF is offering a tour thru Calabria on 25 dates from September 15 to June 15, and a tour thru Tuscany, with weekly departures starting in February, 2009. Check the NIAF website or call 888-846-6423

#### **LITTLE ITALY (BALTIMORE)**

Christmas tree lighting and choral performance, roasted chestnuts, hot cider, cookies and a Santa who speaks Italian. **Friday, December 5, 6:30 PM, corner of Stiles & High Streets, Baltimore, MD**

## ICS Board of Directors and their Responsibilities

Luigi De Luca, *President*  
Paolo Vidoli, *Vice President and Secretary*  
Romeo Segnan, *Vice President*  
Cesarina Horing, *Treasurer*  
Cesarina Horing, *Membership, Italian Language*  
Maria Wilmeth, *Historian*  
Joe Onofrietti, *Film & Hospitality*  
Ron Cappelletti, *Webmaster*  
Olga Mancuso, *Fund Raising & Events*  
Nick Monaco, *At Large*  
Aldo Grossi, *Music & Hospitality*  
Arrigo Mongini, *Editor of Poche Parole*  
Elio Grandi, *Emeritus*  
Aldo Bove, *Liaison in Italy*

### VICTOR CANINO

#### Our newest member of the ICS Board of Directors

Victor was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico and spent the early years of his life growing up in Fort Benning, Georgia, where he attended public schools. He is a graduate of the University of Puerto Rico, where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and a Master of Science in Health Services Administration. He currently resides in Derwood, Maryland.

He served as an active duty army officer from 1963 to 1968 and later in the U.S. Army Reserve from which he retired as a Colonel in the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps. During his active duty military career he served in the US as well as in Europe, including over two years in Livorno, Italy.

After the military, Victor worked in the public sector, both the US and Puerto Rico governments, primarily in health services in Puerto Rico as well as in different cities in the US, including New York and Boston. Later in his career he worked in supervisory positions in the equal employment opportunity field.

Since retiring in 2007 he has served as a volunteer at the Mercy health clinic in Gaithersburg and more recently as a patient ambassador Volunteer at the National Institute of Mental Health in Bethesda.

Victor is fluent in Italian, Spanish, and English, and has been a member of the Italian Cultural Society since November, 2006. We are very pleased to welcome him to the ICS Board of Directors.

## CELEBRATE THE 95<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

Sunday, December 7. Begins with the 10:30 Mass celebrated by Archbishop Donald Wuerl. Followed by café italiano in the lower church hall. The anniversary luncheon begins at 1:00 catered by Tesoro Restaurant. Info and advance luncheon tickets 202-638-0165.

[www.holyrosarychurchdc.org/95thanniversary.html](http://www.holyrosarychurchdc.org/95thanniversary.html)

## ITALIAN GOURMET MARKET

12169 Darnestown Rd. (Rte. 28), Gaithersburg, MD  
at Darnestown Rd. & Quince Orchard Rd.

Tel: 301-926-9236

## Gourmet Deli and Catering

*Featuring an extensive line of Italian food favorites, wines and beers!*

*Italian deli products, panini, subs and sandwiches, fresh mozzarella plus*

*home made delicious Italian meals to go!*

**And now for the Holiday Season**

**\* Danettone \* Pandoro \***

**\* Danforte \*\* Torrone \***

**\* Perugina Chocolates \***

**Buon Natale!**

Bring this ad with you for a Special 10% Holiday Discount!  
(except for beer, wine, or other beverages)

### ICS Poche Parole Publication

Arrigo Mongini, Editor

Nick Monaco, Assistant Editor

Romeo Segnan, Paolo Vidoli, Italian Editors

Poche Parole is published each month from January through May and September through December.

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](mailto:icspoparole@verizon.net) or on a computer diskette/CD to:

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

**Publication notice:** The ICS Board reserves sole discretion for accepting any material, including advertisements, for inclusion in Poche Parole, pursuant to its established Publication Policy. A copy of this policy is available upon request by contacting the Editor. Advertisers appearing in Poche Parole have paid a fee or provided services in kind to ICS for publishing their respective advertisements. Publication of any advertisement in Poche Parole does not reflect ICS endorsement or guarantee of the advertisers' services, products or statements. Material contained in articles published is the sole responsibility of the author and does not indicate ICS endorsement of the opinions or accuracy of the statements contained therein.



## ICS MEMBER SURVEY

Dear ICS Member,

The purpose of this Member survey is two-fold:

1. To seek your suggestions on Poche Parole, ICS programs and events to help the Society grow and to make it more meaningful to you.
2. To invite the general membership to become more involved in the operation of our Society.

Please take some time to complete this Survey. Your input is valued and is greatly appreciated by the members who serve on your ICS Board. If more space is needed, enter replies on a separate sheet, identifying the question by section and number and attach to this Survey. Where there are multiple choice replies, please circle your reply choice.

To encourage member input to this survey, please see instructions at bottom of page 10 about participation in the Survey Lottery for those submitting a completed survey.

### **A. PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS**

The ICS Board, at its July 11, 2008 meeting adopted the mission statement for ICS,  
**“To preserve and promote the Italian Culture for all.”**

In support of the mission statement, the Board plans on presenting the following subjects at the remaining 2008/2009 Socials: Italian architecture and architects, Italian cuisine, History of Italian Opera, Italian scientists and engineers, Italian “style” & fashion, and Italian cinema.

1. Please list suggestions for topics for the 2009/2010 ICS Social season.
2. Generally, the events at our Social include a film, language lessons, the presentation of a topic, a hospitality period with food and drink, and a raffle.
  - a. Are you satisfied with this format?            Yes            No
  - b. If No; what would you like to add to, or delete from the events of our Socials?
3. During the 9 month ICS Social season how often do you attend the monthly Socials?  
(a. 7 - 9 times    b. 4 - 6 times    c. 1 - 3 times    d. never  
What could be done to encourage a higher level of attendance?
4. Other events:
  - a. What events would you like to have ICS organize and sponsor for its members such as:  
day trip bus tours, overseas tours, dining out at local Italian restaurants, cultural events (e.g.;  
concerts, museum exhibitions, operas), or other. Please circle selected event(s) and/or enter  
other events below.
  - b. If ICS organized such events would you participate?    Yes            No
  - c. Would you help organize such events?                    Yes            No
5. To help our Society grow and to ensure its future, we need to reach out to bring new members in.  
What can the Society do to attract and recruit new members?

### **B. COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION**

Currently, the ICS Board has established the below listed Committees. To serve our Society more comprehensively and to augment the efforts of the current Board, we invite the support and participation from the general membership. If you are willing to serve on a Committee, please circle the Committee(s) below and enter your name, telephone number and/or e-mail address at the end of the Survey.

1. Liaison with elementary, middle, high schools and universities
2. Membership
3. Scholarship awards
4. Web site
5. Poche Parole
6. Programs
7. Hospitality
8. Exhibits for meetings/sound and visuals
- . Fund raising

**C. POCHE PAROLE SUGGESTIONS**

Poche Parole is ICS' primary means of communication. It is published in the first week of the month, Sept thru May of the ICS Social year and contains time sensitive information, specifically notification of that month's Social.

- 1. Poche Parole is sent out to arrive at members' homes 2 weeks prior to the monthly Social.  
Is this notice timely for you to plan participation in ICS Socials and other events?  
a. Yes      b. No      If No, what would be timelier for you?
- 2. Do you or anyone in your household read Poche Parole within 3 days of receipt?  
a. Yes      b. No      If No, typically when is Poche Parole read?
- 3. Do you or anyone in your household read most of Poche Parole regularly?      a. Yes      b. No
- 4. Which of the following would you like to be added to Poche Parole as regular features?  
  - a. Reporting on local events that have taken place
  - b. Material specifically for children
  - c. News from Italy
  - d. Articles by invited speakers prior to/or after their speeches
  - e. Poetry
  - f. Articles on famous Italians or Italian Americans
  - g. Recipes from members
  - g. Other(s) – please list:
- 5. Are there any features that should be eliminated? Please list:

Grazie mille for taking the time to complete this Survey. **Please cut the Survey pages (#9 & #10) from the Poche Parole and mail in by Jan 15, 2009 to:**

Italian Cultural Society  
Attn: Member Survey  
4848 Battery Lane Suite100  
Bethesda, MD 20814

Luigi De Luca, ICS President

OPTIONAL: \_\_\_\_\_ Enter your name, telephone number and/or e-mail address

\*\*\*\*\*

**SURVEY LOTTERY**

For the results of this survey to be meaningful to provide guidance to the ICS Board, it is important to have substantial input from as many members as possible. To encourage member input the Board has set up a Survey Lottery. The winner will have the choice of an Italian Language Course by the ICS Italian Language Program (valued at \$210) or a \$100 gift certificate for an Italian restaurant near the home of the winner.

**Lottery Instructions:**

- 1. Insert the information indicated in the lottery ticket to the immediate right, to include, name and telephone number. If you are submitting the Survey anonymously, only enter your telephone number.
- 2. Mail the Survey to the ICS office as indicated above **by Jan. 15, 2009.**  
**(Note: The ICS Board will cut out the lottery ticket to enter in the drawing.**
- 3. The lottery drawing will be conducted at the ICS Carnevale Festa

*Buona fortuna!*

<b>LOTTERY TICKET</b>
Name: _____
Phone: _____

## CELEBRATING PINO CICALA AND ANTENNA ITALIA

by Paolo Vidoli

On October 22, the Italian Cultural Institute and the Education Office of the Italian Embassy celebrated the 50th anniversary of Antenna Italia and its founder Pino Cicala with a reception at the Embassy. In the crowded theatre First Counselor Minister Marco Mancini, Cultural Attaché, Professor Luigi De Sanctis, Director of the Education Office of the Embassy and Ms. Rosa Venturelli, Director of the Cultural Institute, each said a few words remembering their first encounter with Pino



Cicala and the warm friendship that developed between them since the beginning. Ms. Venturelli introduced Mr. Ennio Caretto, the US Correspondent of *Corriere della Sera*, a long time friend of Mr. Cicala. They exchanged their common memories and experiences and responded to questions from the audience while images of Pino's life and scenes of Italian theatre were projected on the auditorium screen.

At the end of the official part of the ceremony, all moved to Piazza Italia where the attendees could personally talk and congratulate with Pino. Refreshments were served, accompanied by champagne and a commemorative cake in the shape of an antique radio. The Italian Cultural Society joins the entire Italian community in expressing our appreciation to Pino Cicala for his tireless work to promote the Italian language and heritage and, as part of this effort, for keeping Antenna Italia alive and kicking. For additional information, you can visit the web site "Amico" at the address:

<http://italianamericancommunications.org> .

Il 12 ottobre l'Istituto Culturale Italiano e l'Ufficio dell'Educazione dell'Ambasciata Italiana hanno festeggiato con un ricevimento all'Ambasciata il 50mo anniversario di Antenna Italia ed il suo fondatore, Pino Cicala. Il Primo consigliere Ministro Marco Mancini, Attaché Culturale, il Professor Luigi De Sanctis, Direttore dell'Ufficio dell'Educazione e la Dottoressa Rosa Venturini, Direttore dell'Istituto

di Cultura, hanno brevemente ricordato di fronte a un teatro affollato il loro primo incontro con Pino Cicala e la calda amicizia che si era stabilita fin dall'inizio. La Dott. Venturelli ha poi presentato al pubblico Ennio Caretto, corrispondente del *Corriere della Sera* e amico di Cicala da lungo tempo. Essi hanno parlato delle loro esperienze comuni ed hanno risposto alle domande poste dal pubblico mentre sullo schermo venivano proiettate immagini della vita di Pino e scene di teatro italiano.

Dopo la parte ufficiale della cerimonia, gli invitati si sono spostati in Piazza Italia dove hanno potuto incontrare e congratularsi personalmente con Pino. Sono stati offerti dei rinfreschi e dello champagne assieme ad una torta a forma di radio d'epoca. La Società Culturale Italiana desidera esprimere il suo apprezzamento a Pino Cicala per il suo lavoro instancabile di promuovere la lingua e cultura italiane e, come parte di questo sforzo, di mantenere viva e vegeta Antenna Italia. Ulteriori informazioni su Antenna Italia sono disponibili in "Amico", all'indirizzo:

<http://italianamericancommunications.org>

# 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**

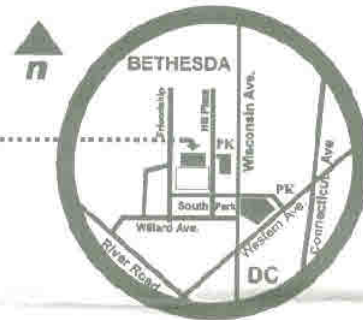
- Theater
- Literature
- Opera
- 20-40s
- Children (3-13)
- Museums
- Outdoor activities
- Incontri a cena
- Conversation
- Travelling
- Dancing
- Cultural progr.
- Fund Raising

*Please mark the group you are interested in*

## meeting location

### friendship heights village center

4433 South Park Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815



**ICS** the italian cultural society  
 of washington, dc., inc.  
 (202) 333-CIAO  
[www.ItalianCulturalSociety.org](http://www.ItalianCulturalSociety.org)

4848 Battery Lane, Suite #100  
 Bethesda, Maryland 20814

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.*

