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poche parole

The Italian Cultural Society of Washington, DC

Preserving and Promoting Italian Culture for All

www.italianculturalsociety.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you for coming in large numbers to our Christmas celebration . As one of our Board members put it "another beautiful party thanks to great performances from the "*a cappella* foursome" to Babbo Natale, la Befana, and the Elves. The "laurel wreath" goes to Ron Cappelletti (and friends) who should be commended for putting together an excellent program. I thoroughly enjoyed the quartet that achieved the unthinkable by calming down even the most vivacious child and creating the sweetest Christmas atmosphere ever." I would like to also thank all those who have prepared the food that we so thoroughly enjoyed and the members of the Board who have made it a mission to help and work hard for our common goal, that of making the community enjoy themselves and come back to our holiday celebrations in greater numbers. What a pleasure it was to see the interest and the joy in the faces of the little ones and by reflection in those of their parents! I would like to thank the members of the DIVE who have joined us for this Christmas party. I should emphasize that they are welcome to join us at any of our Sunday functions as well. The *presepe* was a big hit with kids and grownups alike: Lots of nostalgic adults were looking at the landscape filled with little figurines that I have acquired some 50 years ago in Maglie, and which reminded them of similar scenes built by their brothers or fathers. In Maglie it is traditional to build nativity scenes in all churches and in many households. I started in this endeavor when I was 10 years old and continue it to this day. I am now teaching my grandchildren how to do it in the hope that they will carry on the tradition.

Well, I wish you all a wonderful New Year and look forward to personally greeting you at the January social.

All the best, *Luigi De Luca*

ICS EVENTS

Social meetings start at 3:00 PM on the third Sunday of the month, September thru May, at the Friendship Heights Village Center, 4422 South Park Ave., Chevy Chase, MD
(See map on last page)

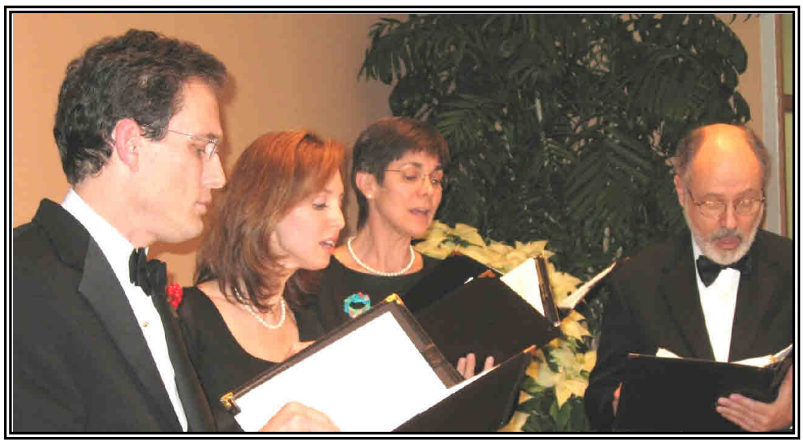
***Jan. 18:* "THE CHURCHES OF FLORENCE"**

Dr. Eric Denker, Senior Lecturer, Education Division of the National Gallery of Art will present an illustrated discussion of these lovely buildings. (see page 3)

The Jan. 18 meeting will also feature the Movie of the Month, "THE LITTLE WORLD OF DON CAMILLO" (see page 3)

***Feb. 15:* FESTA DI CARNEVALE !!**

(More on this in the next issue)



← Left to right: Wayne Meyer, Lynne Woods, Chris Vocke and Ron Cappelletti, all members of both St. Rose of Lima choir in Gaithersburg and the National Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorale in residence at Strathmore performing at the Festa di Natale

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ROMEO SEGNAN, UN "AUTOPROFILO"

Romeo Segnan nacque a Fiume nel 1932. La città, assieme alla Dalmazia e gran parte dell"Istria, fu ceduta alla Iugoslavia dopo la sconfitta subita dall'Italia nella seconda guerra mondiale. Il regime nazionalista e oppressivo di Tito costrinse 350,000 italiani a lasciare le loro terre e le loro case e andare esuli non solo in Italia ma anche verso l'Europa, le Americhe e l'Australia. La famiglia si stabilì a Torino nell'aprile del 1948, dove Romeo frequentò il liceo classico e si laureò in fisica presso l'Università di Torino. Nel dicembre del 1957, egli ricevette una borsa per proseguire gli studi in fisica presso il Carnegie Institute of Technology, oggi noto come la Carnegie Mellon University, a Pittsburgh, PA.

Gli studi di fisica impegnarono parecchio Romeo, ma egli trovò il tempo per svagarsi e in particolare fu uno dei soci fondatori dell'International Club, un luogo d'incontro per il nutrito numero di studenti provenienti da tutti i cinque continenti. Naturalmente gli studenti americani non erano esclusi dal partecipare ai vari programmi culturali e di svago organizzati dal Club. Ed è durante una delle feste che Romeo incontrò Patricia (Pat), la sua futura consorte.

Nel 1962 Pat ottenne il BFA (Bachelor of Fine Arts) e Romeo conseguì il Ph.D. in fisica. Nello stesso anno, il dipartimento di fisica del Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, Long Island, offrì a Romeo un Postdoctoral Fellowship della durata di due anni. Romeo assunse la sua posizione nel settembre del 1962. Nel frattempo, Pat s'era trasferita a San Francisco, che in quegli anni era una delle capitali dei

ROMEO SEGNAN, AN "AUTOPROFILE"(translation)

Romeo Segnan was born in Fiume in 1932. The city, along with Dalmatia and a large part of Istria was ceded to Yugoslavia after the defeat of Italy in World War II. The oppressive nationalist regime of Tito forced 350,000 Italians to leave their lands and their houses and to go into exile, not only in Italy, but also to Europe, the Americas and Australia. The family settled in Torino in April of 1948, where Romeo attended high school and received his laurea in physics from the University of Torino. In December of 1957 he received a scholarshipto continue studies in physics at the Carnegie Institute of Technology, now Carnegie Mellon University, in Pittsburgh, PA.

His studies in physics engaged Romeo extensively but he still found time to amuse himself, In particular he was one of the founding members of the International Club, a meeting place for the growing number of students coming from all five continents. Of course the American students were not excluded from participating in the various cultural and recreational programs organized by the club. During one of the parties, Romeo met Patricia (Pat), his future wife.

In 1962 Pat received her BFA (Bachelor of Fine Arts) and Romeo, his PhD in physics. In the same year, the physics Department of Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton Long Island, offered Romeo a Postdoctoral Fellowship lasting two years. Romeo assumed his position in September, 1962. Meanwhile, Pat had moved to San Francisco, which, in those

beatnicks e una mecca per gli artisti. Dopo un corteggiamento transcontinentale durato parecchi mesi, i due si sposarono (a Brooklyn) nel dicembre 1962, e si sistemarono a Shoreham, Long Island. Allo scadere del fellowship, Pat e Romeo andarono a Filadelfia, PA, dove Romeo si impegnò nella sua ricerca nel campo della fisica della materia, in particolare le proprietà magnetiche della materia, e insegnò fisica per tre anni.

Nel 1967 i due si trasferirono a Washington, DC dove Romeo proseguì la sua lunga carriera di professore universitario presso l'American University. Nel 1987 egli assunse l'incarico di capo del dipartimento di fisica, che tenne per 10 anni (fino al 1997). Finalmente, nel 2000 Romeo andò in pensione. Ciononostante egli continua ad insegnare saltuariamente nel dipartimento di fisica. Durante gli anni di insegnamento, Romeo e Pat trascorsero diversi periodi in Italia: sei mesi di anno sabbatico nel 1976 presso l'Università di Parma; sei mesi all'Università La Sapienza a Roma nel 1983; un anno sabbatico all'Università di Parma nel 1990-91; un altro anno sabbatico all'Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia nel 1997-98. Come si può notare, i loro contatti con l'Italia erano abbastanza frequenti e di lunga durata. Ed è nel 1998 che Pat e Romeo, decisero di trovar casa a Venezia. Sono stati fortunati di trovare un modesto appartamento nel Sestiere di Cannaregio non tanto distante dalla stazione di Santa Lucia. Si trovano così bene a Venezia che hanno scelto di trascorrere circa sei mesi a Venezia e sei mesi a Washington.

Da più di dieci anni, Romeo fa parte dell'Italian Cultural Society (ICS) dove ha ricoperto diverse posizioni, tra le quali tesoriere e presidente. Come uno dei rappresentanti della ICS, egli ha partecipato all'organizzazione della Festa Italiana in qualità di capo del comitato culturale. La Festa Italiana è un evento annuale che si svolge durante l'estate ed attrae un numero notevole di italiani, italo-americani ed americani amanti della cultura e lingua italiana.

years was one of the beatnick capitals, and a mecca for artists. After a transcontinental courtship lasting several months the couple married (in Brooklyn) in December, 1962 and settled in Shoreham Long Island. At the conclusion of the fellowship, Pat and Romeo went to Philadelphia, where Romeo occupied himself with his research in the field of materials physics, in particular, the magnetic properties of materials, and he taught physics there for three years.

In 1967 the couple moved to Washington, DC, where Romeo pursued his long career as university professor at American University. In 1987 he assumed the post of head of the physics department that he held for 12 years (till 1997). Finally, in 2000 Romeo retired. Despite this, he continues to teach from time to time in the physics department. During these years of teaching, Romeo and Pat spent different periods in Italy: a six month sabbatical in 1976 at the University of Parma, six months at La Sapienza University University in Rome in 1983, a one year sabbatical at the University of Parma in 1990-91; another one year sabbatical at the Ca' Foscari University of Venice in 1997-98. As one can see, their contacts with Italy were fairly frequent and of long duration. It was in 1998 that Pat and Romeo decided to search for a home in Venice. They were fortunate to find a modest apartment in the Sestiere di Cannaragio, not very far from Santa Lucia station. They are so happy in Venice that they have chosen to spend about six months in Venice and six months in Washington.

For over ten years, Romeo has been a member of the Italian Cultural Society (ICS) where he has held vaious positions, including treasurer and president. As one of the ICS representatives, he has taken part in the organization of the Festa Italiana as the head of the cultural committee. The Festa Italiana is an annual event that takes place during the summer and attracts a significant number of Italians, Italian Americans, and lovers of the Italian language and culture.

PROGRAM OF JANUARY 18

Dr. Erik Denker will speak on "The Churches of Florence". He is Senior Lecturer, Education Division at the National Gallery of Art , where he has been since June 1978. From 1998 to 2006, he also served as the Curator of Prints and Drawings at the Corcoran, Dr. Denker also serves in Washington as an Adjunct Professor at both Georgetown University and at Cornell University. He frequently lectures in Italy for the Smithsonian Institute and for the Scuola Internazionale di Grafica in Venice.

FILM OF THE MONTH

The Little World of Don Camillo: The first in a series of films based on Giovanni Guareschi's popular books, this film stars French comedian Fernandel as Don Camillo, a Catholic priest who is at odds with his rural village's newly elected Communist mayor, Peppone (Gino Cervi). This joint production between France and Italy transcends its own identity as a comedy making an historically relevant commentary about Italy's postwar politics and policies. 1952, in black and white.

The Art of Teaching Italian through Italian Art in Rome, Italy

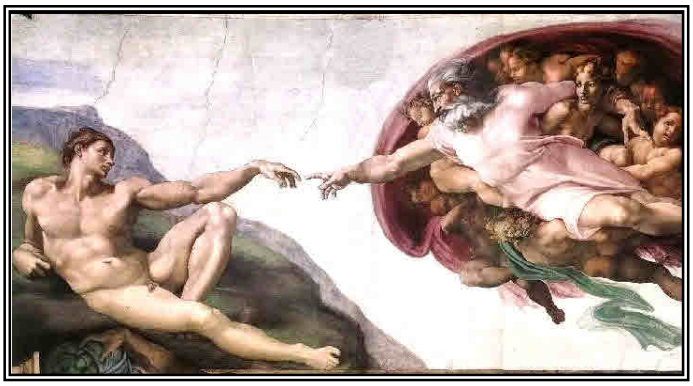
Summer 2009

The Italian Cultural Society has been officially notified by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) that its grant proposal for an Institute entitled ***"The Art of Teaching Italian through Italian Art in Rome, Italy"*** has once again been accepted and fully funded. The Institute, the third of its kind, will take place in Italy during the summer of 2009, and the funds granted, amounting to nearly $200,000, shall be used to take 25 K-12 teachers of Italian to Rome and Tuscany for an intensive four-week methodological teaching training in content-based instruction, Italian language and history of Italian art.

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is a very well known federal, independent organization that provides funds for research projects in the field of education and the humanities in general.

The 25 teachers of Italian K-12 will be selected nationwide according to specific criteria such as their educational background and academic qualifications, their years of experience in teaching Italian language and culture, and their interest in promoting new approaches on how to best teach Italian as a foreign language.

The Institute will take place from June 21st to July 17, 2009 and will be based for the most part in Rome, with some academic excursions to Florence and other cities in the Tuscany region.



The program will focus on the teaching of Italian via a specific content, which in this case will be *Italian Art,* and it will be taught entirely in Italian. The team of scholars instructing the program will include six (6) scholars and professors from five different Italian or American universities experts in the field of applied linguistics, in teaching Italian as a second language, in Italian art history, urban architecture and archeology and in the content-based teaching approach.

In Tuscany, in addition to visiting some of the world's most famous museums and monuments, the participants will also interact with Italian artisans who are specialists in their craft and in making traditional artifacts. This will allow the teachers to observe ancient techniques used in the manufacturing process, thus acquiring a direct experience that in turn they will be able to demonstrate to their students in their classes.

To help offset their travel and lodging expenses all participating K-12 teachers will receive a $3,200 stipend.

Upon completing all academic requirement and an additional project they may also elect to receive three (3) or six (6) graduate university credits by enrolling in an American credit-granting institution of higher learning. During their stay in Italy, the participants will be housed in comfortable three or four-star hotels.

The Institute will be directed by: Prof. Roberto Severino, Director; Dr. Maria Wilmeth, Co-director and Grant Administrator; and Prof. Luigi De Sanctis, Co-director and Liaison with the Embassy of Italy in Washington, DC.

For more specific information please see the websites of the NEH or of the Italian Cultural Society of Washington, D.C., or you may write to both Prof. Severino and Dr. Wilmeth at severiro@georgetown.edu and maria.wilmeth@gmail.com.

*RISOTTO WITH SPINACH AND GORGONZOLA **

Ingredients for up to 4 people:

3 oz. Spinach (chopped, frozen is ok)
1 small onion, about 1 ½ inches in diameter
1 tablespoon olive oil
½ lb. Arborio rice
1 (14 oz.) can of low fat chicken broth
½ can or more of water
2 oz. imported Gorgonzola
2 tablespoons heavy cream
2 tablespoon butter (3, if no heavy cream is handy)
3 tablespoons grated imported Parmesan or Grana Padano cheese

Thaw, boil briefly, and drain the spinach. If not already chopped, run it through a food processor or chop it. Set it aside.

Chop the onion and put it in a medium size saucepan with the olive oil and one tbsp. of the butter. Sauté it over low to medium heat till it turns yellow but do not let it burn. In a separate saucepan, heat chicken broth and water to a boil. Meanwhile add the rice to the onion and let it warm up a bit. Add about half of the broth and water to the rice and keep stirring it over medium heat so that it boils gently. If the mixture thickens keep adding more of the broth and water. Keep stirring so that none of the mixture sticks to or burns into the bottom of the saucepan. Boil gently for not more than 5 minutes.

Add the spinach, Gorgonzola, and cream (or one more ounce of the butter) to the rice and continue boiling gently, adding more of the broth and water as needed to prevent excessive thickening but not so much as to create a watery mixture. After about ten or fifteen minutes, taste the mixture. The rice should be cooked until it is no longer hard, but it should not be permitted to turn into a soft paste. All the while stir it to make sure it does not stick to the bottom. Add and stir in the last ounce of the butter and the Parmesan or Grana cheese just before it is ready, and serve immediately.

Add more Parmesan to individual tastes when on the plates.

Leftover rice can be refried the next day in more butter and even more Gorgonzola. It tastes even better the next day, especially if you let some of the rice get toasted or caramelized.

* *The above recipe was adapted from one obtained from the "Trattoria I Due G", located at Via B. Cennini 6/R about three blocks from the main train station in Florence.*

Arrigo Mongini

*RISOTTO DI SPINACI E GORGONZOLA**

Ingredienti (4 persone, al massimo): vedere a sinistra.

Disgelate e fate brevemente bollire e scolare gli spinaci. Se non gia' tritati passateli in un macinatore. Metteteli a parte.

Tritate la cipolla e mettetela in una pentola media con l' olio e un cucchiaio del burro. Saltatela su calore basso o medio finche' non diventi gialla, ma non lasciatela bruciare. In una pentola separata, scaldate il brodo e l' acqua finche' non bollano. Nel frattempo aggiungete il riso alla cipolla e lasciatela riscaldare un po'. Aggiungete la meta del brodo e acqua al riso e continuate a mescolarlo su calore medio finche' non bolla dolcemente. Se la miscela si addensa continuate ad aggiungere piu' brodo e acqua. Continuate a mescolare in modo che la miscela non si attachi o non si bruci sul fondo. Bollite dolcemente per non piu' di 5 minuti.

Aggiungete gli spinaci, la Gorgonzola e la crema (o un' oncia in piu' del burro) al riso e continuate a bollire dolcemente, aggiungendo ancora del brodo e acqua per evitare un addensamento eccessivo, pero' non cosi' tanto da creare una miscela acquosa. Dopo circa dieci o quindici minuti assaggiate la miscela. Il riso deve cuocere finche' non sia piu' duro, ma in modo che non diventi una pasta molle. Mescolate sempre per essere sicuri che non si attacchi al fondo. Aggiungete e mescolate l' ultima oncia del burro e il formaggio Parmigiano o Grana, giusto prima che sia pronto, e servite subito.

Aggiungete ancora del Parmigiano sui piatti secondo i gusti.

Il riso che rimane puo' essere rifritto il giorno dopo in burro e anche piu' gorgonzola. Ha un sapore anche migliore il giorno dopo, specialmente se lasciate che una parte del riso diventi tostata o caramellizzata.

* *La suddetta ricetta e' stata adattata da una della "Trattoria I Due G", Via B. Cennini 6/R, a circa tre isolati dalla statione ferroviaria di Firenze.*

ITALIAN SOCIETY AND THE ECONOMY

(extracted from a CENSIS press release)

CENSIS, an Italian organization that does research and opinion polling regarding socio-economic issues, recently published its annual report on the socio-economic situation in Italy. These are some of its findings.

72% of Italians think the current economic crisis will affect their lives and risk degrading their standard of living. 37% think it could actually improve the Italians by forcing them to confront their defects. Just 12% of families own stocks and/or funds and 8% have a home mortgage and few are having problems making the payments. Only 13% use consumer credit. 34% say they intend to save more against emergencies, but 25% seem to have no recourse but to spend less. A fairly high percentage say that there are certain expenses that cannot be reduced: 59% for cell phones, 54% at least one week's vacation annually, 48% food, 8% fitness, 86% medical/dental and 41% barber/beauty shop.

Certain factors seem to afford Italy a degree of protection from the crisis. 21% of value added is from manufacturing, higher than in the UK (17%) and France (14%). 28% comes from the financial sector, less than in the UK (34%), France (33%) and Germany (29%). Debt of private companies rose to 75% of product from 68% at the end of 2006, but this is much lower than in France, UK, and Spain where it has been over 100% for some time. Italy is the European country with the largest number of small and medium size exporting firms (about 200,000). Industrial machines and mechanical devices make up a fifth of exports.

Just 10 years ago foreigners in Italy numbered 1 million, but now they are 3.4 million. getting to about 6% of the population. In cities of the north and center, the percentages are higher – 13% in Torino and 9% in Florence., and the fecundity rate of foreign women in Italy is twice that of Italians.

The Italy of "100 cities" is being transformed into 14 mega conurbations – 2 mega-regions (Lombardia and Veneto) 6 other metro areas, 4 linear coastal areas, 2 other axes. These have 61% of the population and 63% of industry.

There continue to be marked differences between north and south Italy. North and central Italy has a GDP per capita of 29,400 euros, more than the UK (29,100), Germany (28,100), and France (27,600), but south Italy is down at 17,000 euros. In the south, those with high school education are just 44% of the population between ages 25 and 64 vs. Germany at 83% and France at 67%.

LA SOCIETÀ E L'ECONOMIA ITALIANE

(estratto da una notizia stampa del CENSIS)

Il CENSIS, un ente di ricerche e sondaggi di questioni sociali ed economiche,ha recentemente pubblicato il suo rapporto annuale sulla situazione sociale ed economica in Italia. Queste sono alcune delle sue conclusioni

Il 72% degli italiani pensa che l'attuale crisi finanziaria potrà avere ripercussioni dirette sulla propria vita. Il 37% pensa che la crisi potrebbe migliorare gli italiani, costringendoli a confrontare i loro difetti. Circa il 12% delle famiglie italiane possiede azioni e/o fondi e l' 8% ha un mutuo per l' abitazione di cui circa il 10% ha molte difficoltà a pagare le rate. Solo il 13% usufruisce del credito al consumo. Il 34% dichiara che intende risparmiare di più, per cautelarsi contro gli imprevisti, ma il 25% sembra non avere altra strada che un taglio dei consumi. Un'elevata percentuale considera certe spese irrinunciabili quali: il cellulare (59%), una vacanza l'anno di almeno una settimana (54%), vitto (48%), attivita' sportive e fitness (48%), spese dentistiche e mediche specialistiche (86%), parrucchiere ed estetista (41%).

Certi fatti sembrano proteggere l' Italia dagli effetti della crisi. Il 21% del valore aggiunto prodotto deriva dal settore manufatturiero, più del Regno Unito (16,6%) e della Francia (14,1%). Il 27,6% proviene dal sistema finanziario, meno che nel Regno Unito (33,8%), in Francia (33,3%) e in Germania (29,2%). L'indebitamento delle imprese a metà del 2008 resta al 75% del Pil (cresciuto dal 68% a fine 2006), molto più basso che in Francia, Regno Unito e Spagna, dove supera da tempo il 100%. L' Italia è il paese europeo con il maggior numero di industrie piccole/medie esportatrici (cira 200,000). Le macchine industriali e gli apparecchi meccanici valgono da soli un quinto dell'intero commercio nazionale di beni oltre confine.

Solo dieci anni fa, gli stranieri residenti erano un milione, ma adesso sono ben 3.5 milioni, arrivando al 6% della popolazione. Nelle città del Centro-Nord le percentuali sono più alte – il 13% a Torino e il 9% a Firenze, e la fecondità delle donne straniere è il doppio di quella delle italiane.

L'Italia delle "cento città" si sta trasformando nell'Italia delle mega conurbazioni urbane – 2 mega-regioni (Lombardia e Veneto), 6 altre zone metropolitane (Torino, Roma, Verona, Napoli, Palermo e Cagliari), 4 sistemi lineari costierin (Liguria, Alto e Basso Adriatico e Sicilia), e 2 "aste territoriali" (Emilia e Toscana). In queste zone si trova il 61% della popolazione e il 63% dell' industria.

Sempre piu' marcate sono le differenze tra Nord e Sud. Il Centro-Nord ha un Pil pro-capite di 29,400 Euro, più di Regno Unito (29,100), Germania (28,100), e Francia (27,600), ma il Sud scende a 17,000 Euro. Nel Sud i diplomati sono il 44,3% della popolazione di 25-64 anni, contro la Germania (83%) e la Francia (67%).

ai

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

ITALIANI ALL' ESTERO (NESSUNO SOFFRE DI NOSTALGIA)

da un messaggio di Alessia Guerrieri
(Avvenire - A9 - 1 ott. 08)

Gli italiani all'estero non ne vogliono sapere di tornare in patria. Sia gli emigrati con la valigia di cartone che i più recenti con laurea e master in tasca, andati via dall'Italia in cerca di un futuro migliore, per lo più non intendono rientrare, pur rimanendo legati alla lingua e alla cultura del Belpaese. È quanto emerge dal 'Rapporto Italiani nel Mondo 2008' curato dalla Fondazione Migrantes, presentato ieri a Roma e giunto alla terza edizione. Gli italiani residenti all'estero sono quasi 4 milioni, senza contare almeno 60 milioni di oriundi; solo poco più della metà è effettivamente emigrata. Il 54% della popolazione fuoriuscita è costituita da giovani sotto i 35 anni ed è concentrata soprattutto in Europa; 3 giovani su 10 poi sono minorenni.

L'emigrazione italiana è in prevalenza euro-americana: più della metà in Europa (56%) e più di un terzo in America (37%). Secondo il Rapporto nel 55% dei casi gli italiani provengono dal Sud.

Il popolo degli emigrati non è composto solo da anziani, sebbene gli over 65 rappresentino un quinto del totale (687mila); più di 2 milioni, infatti, sono giovani laureati che vanno in cerca di un lavoro migliore, soprattutto nel Regno Unito (19%), in Francia (12%), in Spagna (11%) e negli Stati Uniti (9%). Le due generazioni di connazionali, però, sono accumunati dalla volontà di non voler tornare in Italia, pur continuando a parlare l'italiano e a seguire l'associazionismo nazionale. A cinque anni dalla laurea, ad esempio, il 52% degli occupati all'estero considera il rimpatrio improbabile.

Il Rapporto conferma il fenomeno della perdita dei cervelli, poiché «l'Italia non è in grado di esercitare una forte attrattiva per il loro ritorno, né di utilizzare a un livello più elevato i laureati italiani ». La soluzione, secondo Franco Narducci, vice presidente della

ITALIANS ABROAD (NOBODY IS SUFFERING FROM NOSTALGIA)

from a dispatch by Alessia Guerrieri
(Avvenire, Oct 1, '08, translation)

Italians abroad do not want to go back. Both the emigrants with cardboard suitcases and more recent ones with a laurea and a master's degree in their pockets who have left Italy in search of a better future don't want to return though staying tied to their native language and culture. That is what emerges from the "Report on Italians in the World 2008" edited by the Fondazione Migrantes presented in Rome Sept. 30 in its third edition. There are almost 4 million Italians living abroad, without counting the over 60 million people of Italian descent; just a little more than half have effectively emigrated. 54% of those living abroad consists of young people under 35 and are found mainly in Europe. 3 out of 10 of these are also minors.

Italian emigration is primarily Euro-American; more than half in Europe (56%) and more than a third to America (37%). According to the Report, in 55% of the cases, the Italians come from the South.

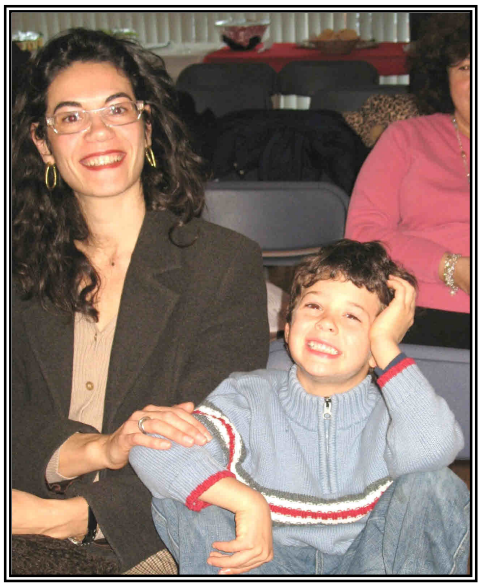
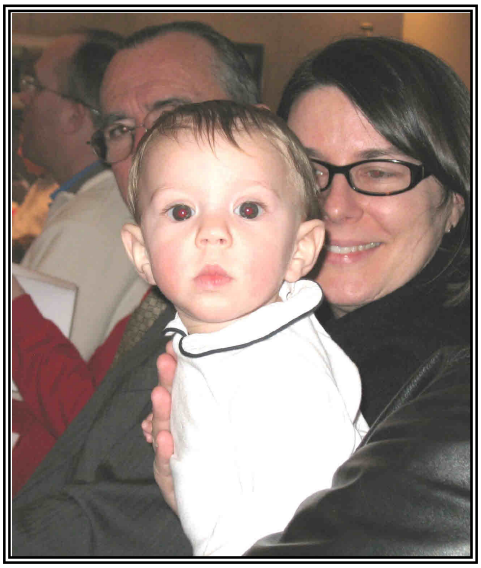
The emigrant population is not composed of only old people, though those over 65 represent a fifth of the total (687,000); over 2 million , in fact, are young graduates in search of a better job, mostly in the UK (19%), in France (12%), IN Spain (12%), and in the US (9%). The two generations of nationals have in common the desire not to return to Italy, even though they continue to speak Italian and to associate with their compatriots. For example, five years after their college degree, 52% of those employed abroad consider it improbable that they would return,

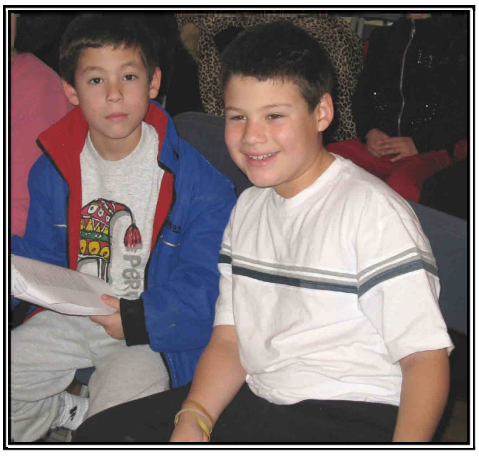
The Report confirms the brain drain phenomenon, since "Italy is not in a position to exert a strong attraction for their return nor to utilize Italian college graduates at a higher level." The solution, according to Franco Narducci, vice president of the

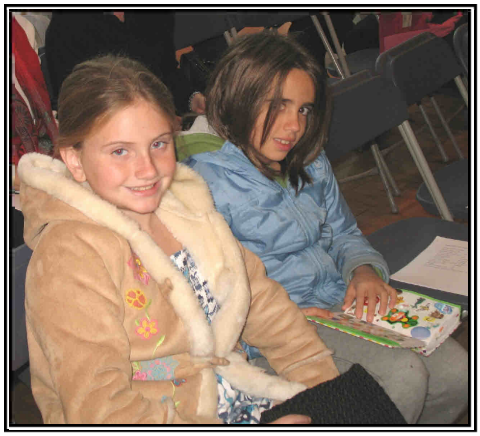
Commissione Esteri alla Camera, è puntare sugli istituti di cultura che promuovono l'italianità all'estero, aumentando loro le risorse per «rafforzare il legame tra l'Italia e le comunità di connazionali nel mondo.

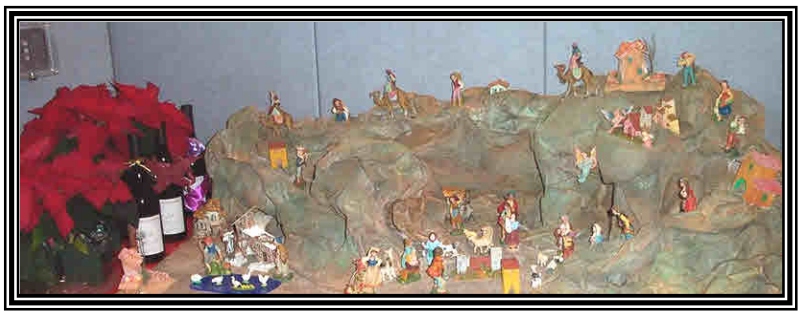
Foreign Affairs Committee in the Chamber of Deputies, is to target cultural institutes that promote Italian culture abroad by increases their resources to strengthen the ties between Italy and the community of its citizens around the world.

PICTURES FROM THE CHRISTMAS PARTY FOTOGRAFIE DALLA FESTA DI NATALE
di Nicola Monaco







RICERCATORI ITALIANI SCOPRONO LA PROTEINA CHE FA RINGIOVANIRE LE CELLULE

(estratto da un articolo di Roberta Rizzo, Italia Press)

Roma – Un gruppo di ricercatori italiani ha scoperto un nuovo meccanismo per **ri-programmare le cellule adulte e renderle simili alle staminali**. Per la scienza medica ciò significa aprire prospettive interessanti in tutti i campi della medicina rigenerativa, a vantaggio dei pazienti con morbo di Alzheimer, Parkinson, cardiopatie. Quest'importante risultato è frutto di uno studio tutto italiano, pubblicato online sulla rivista "Cell Stem Cell" dal **gruppo di ricerca guidato da Maria Pia Cosma, dell'Istituto Telethon di Genetica e Medicina(Tigem) di Napoli**.

La chiave di tutta è nascosta in una proteina, chiamata ***Wnt***, nota per essere coinvolta in numerose fasi dello sviluppo di animali vertebrati e invertebrati. I ricercatori - spiega una nota - hanno preso in considerazione diversi tipi di cellule adulte (fibroblasti, cellule del timo e precursori di cellule neuronali) e le hanno fuse con staminali embrionali in presenza della proteina Wnt. Dopo questa manipolazione, le cellule adulte hanno perso le loro caratteristiche tipiche e ne hanno invece acquisite altre, simili a quelle delle staminali. Si sono cioè trasformate in cellule poco differenziate (pluripotenti) e in grado di dare origine a tessuti diversi da quello di partenza. "*La vera novità* - spiega **Cosma** - *sta nella grande capacità di Wnt di promuovere questa riprogrammazione*". Per confermarla, gli scienziati hanno verificato che, somministrando dosi precise di proteina per un tempo limitato, un'alta percentuale di cellule adulte si trasformava in simil-staminali. La **Fondazione Telethon** ha già depositato un **brevetto** sulla scoperta. Questo metodo potrebbe rappresentare una valida alternativa a quello attualmente più condiviso dalla comunità scientifica internazionale. Questo permetterà di individuare i meccanismi di base della riprogrammazione cellulare e contribuire così allo **sviluppo di nuovi approcci terapeutici nel campo della medicina rigenerativa**

ITALIAN RESEARCHERS DISCOVER THE PROTEIN THAT CAUSES CELLS TO REJUVENATE

(from Italia Press, translated by Romeo Segnan)

Rome -A group of Italian investigators has discovered a new mechanism for re-programming adult cells and to render them similar to stem cells. For medical science that means opening interesting perspectives in all the fields of regenerative medicine, hopefully helping patients with Alzheimer, Parkinson, and other cardiopathies. This important result is fruit of an all Italian study, published online in the review "Cell Stem Cell" by the research group guided by Maria Pia Cosma, of the Institute Telethon of Genetics and Medicine (Tigem) of Naples.

The key to the discovery is based in one protein, called **Wnt**, known for its role in numerous phases of the development of vertebrate and invertebrate animals. The investigators have taken into consideration several types of adult cells (fibroblasts, thymus cells, and the precursors of neuronal cells) and they have fused them with embryonic stem cells in presence of the Wnt protein. After this manipulation, the adult cells have lost their typical characteristics and they have instead acquired others, similar to those of the stem cells. That is they have been transformed in little differentiated cells (pluri-potent) and in a position to give origin to tissue different from the initial one. "The true innovation - Cosma explains – consists of the great capacity of Wnt to promote this "reprogramming". In order to confirm it, the scientists have verified that, giving precise doses of protein for a limited time, a high percentage of adult cells was transformed in cells similar to stem cells. The Telethon Foundation has already submitted a patent for the discovery. This method could represent a valid alternative to the one currently favored by the international scientific community. This will allow researchers to characterize the basic mechanisms of cellular reprogramming and to contribute therefore to the development of new therapeutic approaches in the field of regenerative medicine.

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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.

Lorraine Loken
Francesca & Christopher Clark
Franca Gusmaroli

Benvenuti !

Cesarina Horing, **ICS MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

ICS Poche Parole Publication
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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
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LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

Palladio celebrations: Nov. 30 was the 500th anniversary of the birth of Andrea Palladio, the famous Italian architect. Washington mayor Adrian M. Fenty issued a proclamation declaring Nov. 30 to be Andrea Palladio Day in Washington. Mayor Fenty's mother, Jan Fenty, presented the proclamation to Father Lidio Tomasi at a ceremony on Nov. 30 at the Holy Rosary Church. Pino Cicala acted as master of ceremonies. The Italian Embassy was represented by Counselor Marco Mancini. Washington's city hall, the Wilson Building, was patterned after Palladio's Palazzo Iseppo Porto in Vicenza, Italy. A Resolution honoring Palladio's contributions to American architecture will be introduced in the next session of the US Congress by Congressman Bill Pascrell, of New Jersey.

Holy Rosary Church: A New Year's Eve celebration is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 31 from 7 PM to 12:30 AM in Casa Italiana. Dinner by Tesoro restaurant will be served. Tickets are $75 per person. http://www.holyrosarychurchdc.org/newyears.html

La Befana comes to Casa Italiana after the 12:00 noon mass at Holy Rosary on Sunday, January 4. Pizza will be on sale.

Lido Civic Club: The Past Presidents' Night Gala, a black tie event, will be held on Saturday, Jan. 24 at 6:30 PM at the Capital Hilton. Deputy Mayor Dan Tangherlini will be presented with the Man of the Year award. Tickets start at $150. http://www.lidocivicclub.com/

EVENTI LOCALI

Celebrazioni di Palladio: Il 30 nov. era il cinquecentenario della nascita di Andrea Palladio, il famoso architetto italiano. Il sindaco di Washington, Adrian Fenty, ha dichiarato il 30 nov. Giorno di Andrea Palladio a Washington. La madre del sindaco, Signora Jan Fenty, ha presentato la proclamazione al Padre Lidio Tomasi in una cerimonia il 30 nov. alla Chiesa del Santo Rosario. Pino Cicala era il maestro di cerimonia. Il Consigliere Marco Mancini ha rappresentato l' Ambasciata d' Italia. L' architettura dell' edificio Wilson, il campidoglio di Washington, **e**' basata su quella del Palazzo Iseppo Porto di Palladio a Vicenza. Una dichiarazione che commemora i contributi di Palladio all' architettura americana sarà proposta durante la prossima seduta del Congresso dal Deputato del New Jersey Bill Pascrell.

Chiesa del Santo Rosario: Una celebrazione dell' Anno Nuovo è programmata per mercoledi, 31 dic. Dalle 7 alle 12:30 in Casa Italiana. Il pranzo sarà preparato e servito dal personale del ristorante Tesoro. I biglietti costano $75 ciascuno.

La Befana viene a Casa Italiana dopo la messa di mezzogiorno alla Chiesa del Santo Rosario, domenica, 4 gennaio. Si potrà acquistare della pizza.

Lido Civic Club: Il Gala degli Ex-Presidenti, un ricevimento in abito da sera, avrà luogo sabato, il 24 gennaio alle 6:30 al Capital Hilton. Il sindaco aggiunto Dan Tangherlini sara onorato come Uomo dell' Anno. Biglietti per il Gala sono in vendita a partire da $150

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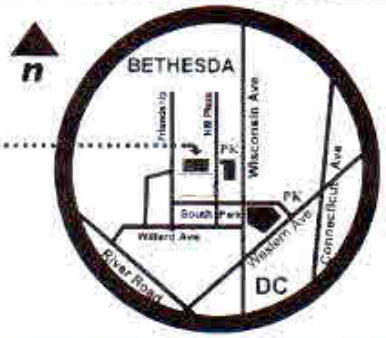

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