



# *poche parole*

The Italian Cultural Society of Washington, DC

*Preserving and Promoting Italian Culture for All*

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

## 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 (map on last page)**

**Sunday, April 19: Dr. Eric Denker, of the National Gallery of Art will speak on the Churches of Florence (Details on page 2)**

**Movie of the Month: at 1:00 "Don Camillo e l' Onorevole Peppone"**

**FREE ITALIAN LESSONS FOR ALL LEVELS FROM 2:00 TO 3:00**

**Saturday, May 9: Metropolitan Opera in the DC Area (Details on page 6)**

**Sunday, May 17: Back by Popular Demand, Prof. Elaine Walters will speak on "Italian Opera and Mozart"**

**Sunday, June 7: ICS Annual Awards Gala Dinner (Details & reservations on page 8)**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At our March Social Meeting, Dr. Elaine Walter kept everyone spellbound during her lecture "Italian Opera, How and Why it Began". She spoke for nearly an hour, but no one missed a single word. She explained the very origins of opera from the Camerata club in Florence, to which the son of Galileo Galilei had belonged. These people were interested in Greek poetry, in particular, the poetry of the tragedians Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides, and used their plots for their production. Elaine also made things lively by involving the audience in singing. It was a pleasure to listen, learn and come away with the impression of actually gaining bits of interesting knowledge. I'm pleased to announce that at our May 17, Social Dr. Walter will return to continue her story of the opera.

The March Social was also a very auspicious occasion because Maria Wilmeth spent the afternoon with us. It is a wonderful thing to see her recovering and being able to visit with her old friends at the Social. We hope she will continue to join us and give us the gift of her presence.

On page 2 of this issue of Poche Parole is published the application information for the various ICS awards. Please note the deadline for receipt of the applications is May 15. This is to allow sufficient time for the selection review process prior to holding our Awards Gala dinner in early June. Be aware that ICS is always looking to reward people who have distinguished themselves in academic fields and also, in craftsmanship. ICS encourages applications from individuals who have contributed in different ways to constructing useful and beautiful objects or even to the building of a structure. Please suggest to qualified people you know to apply for the ICS awards.

Cesarina Horing, Flavia Colombo and I are working with the NEH Institute Director Roberto Severino, and co-director Luigi De Sanctis, towards the success of the NEH institute to be held this summer in Rome on the Teaching of Italian through Italian Art", to which our Maria Wilmeth has contributed so much. The candidate selection process has been completed and excellent candidates have been identified for this year.

The ICS Board and I are most appreciative of the suggestions we received for program subjects, improvements to ICS operations, and Poche Parole from the Member Survey. Most rewarding was the large number of members who have volunteered to work on committees and help organize events. We are most enthusiastic about integrating these volunteers into the Society's operations. This holds the potential for ICS to expand the activities it can offer to its members, enhance participation in Society events and attract new members. **See p 10 for the Members' Survey Report**

Finally, I again recommend that even more members attend our Social Meetings and enjoy themselves as much as we did at the March Social. I look forward to personally welcoming you to the meeting on April 19, when Eric Denker of the National Gallery of Art will speak on the Churches of Florence.

All the best, *Luigi De Luca*

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### PROGRAM OF APRIL 19

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.

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***Ai Nostri Lettori:** Questo saggio e' un lavoro di uno studente in un corso avanzato di Silvana De Luca dell' Italian Language Program. Di tanto in tanto pubblicheremo altri saggi degli studenti. Siamo sicuri che li troverete interessanti.*

### LA NAZIONE DEGLI ARBERESHI

*di Judy Whiton*

Gli arbereshi appartengono ad un popolo di origine albanese, che si e' stabilito nel mezzogiorno cominciando verso la fine del quindicesimo secolo. Sono arrivati in Italia in ondate dopo l'invasione turca della penisola balcanica, una vera diaspora che ha incluso più di un milione di individui. Gli arbereshi ed il loro paladino, Skanderbeg, erano soldati mercenari ed erano stati chiamati dal Re Alfonso V a reprimere una ribellione dei baroni nell' Italia del Sud. Le loro truppe hanno anche fatto la guerra per Ferdinando d'Aragona nelle Guerre di Successione a Napoli. Dopo questo successo, agli arbereshi erano accordate terre in Calabria e Basilicata come un premio per i loro sforzi. Da una colonia di soldati in Calabria, alcuni erano chiamati in Sicilia per combattere ancora una volta per l'Italia. Lì hanno fondato quattro paesi vicino a Palermo: Palazzo Adriano, Mezzo Juso, Contessa Entellina e Santa Cristina Gela. In fatti ci sono una cinquantina di villaggi arberesh, che comprendono 250,000 abitanti in Italia. Durante il diciottesimo secolo, sei mila albanesi a Himare in Albania sono stati ammazzati per il rifiuto di convertirsi all' Islam. Anche quest' ultimo gruppo è immigrato in Sicilia ed ha fondato Piana Degli Albanesi. Dal 1937, l' Eparchia (diocesi bizantina) di Piana Degli Albanesi include i cinque paesi.

## Antenna Italia

is now on the **AMICO** website. Get news from Italy and information on Italian and Italian-American events as well as music & commentary in streaming audio. **Tune in any time** at Pino Cicala's web site  
[www.italianamericancommunications.org](http://www.italianamericancommunications.org)

***To Our Readers:** This essay is the work of a student in a course in advanced Italian of Silvana DeLuca, of the Italian Language Program. From time to time we will publish other student essays. We are certain that you will find them interesting.*

### THE ARBERESH NATION

*by Judy Whiton (English translation)*

The Arberesh are a people of Albanian origin that settled in southern Italy around the end of the fifteenth century. They arrived in Italy in waves after the Turkish invasion of the Balkan Peninsula, a real diaspora that included more than a million individuals. The Arberesh and their leader, Skanderbeg were mercenary soldiers that had been asked by King Alfonso V to repress a rebellion of the barons in southern Italy. Their troops also made war for Ferdinand of Aragon in the Wars of Succession of Naples. After this success, the Arberesh were granted lands in Calabria and Basilicata in compensation for their efforts. Some were called to Sicily from a colony of soldiers in Calabria to wage war once again for Italy. There they founded four small towns near Palermo: Palazzo Adriano, Mezzo Juso, Contessa Entellina and Santa Cristina Gela. In fact there are about fifty Arberesh villages, with a total of 250,000 inhabitants in Italy.

During the eighteenth century, six thousand Albanian people were murdered at Himare, Albania for refusing to convert to Islam. This last group also immigrated to Sicily and founded Piana degli Albanesi. From 1937 on, the Eparchy (Byzantine bishopric) of Piana Degli Albanesi has included the five villages.

I discendenti di questi immigrati albanesi vivono ancora lì, a sud di Palermo. Hanno conservato l'identità etnica per cinquecento anni, mantenendo intatte le loro peculiarità linguistiche e religiose. Si parla una forma di albanese, "arberist", che veniva parlato in Albania prima dell'invasione Turca. Si continua a seguire il rito bizantino usato nelle chiese cattoliche della Magna Grecia. Celebrano la Messa in greco, e seguono la liturgia bizantina di San Giovanni Crisostomo. Inoltre la gente conserva la moda d'abbigliamento d'Albania dei secoli passati. Durante le cerimonie nuziali e le principali manifestazioni religiose, le donne portano i costumi tradizionali. Questo vestito è una gonna e una camicetta con una canottiera adatta. Il tessuto è ricamato in oro e tutte le donne sono adornate da gioielli tipici della gioielleria di Sicilia del sedicesimo secolo. Inoltre, ogni paese ha un nome italiano e un nome arberesh e le notizie locali sono pubblicate in arberist.

Piana Degli Albanesi è una destinazione attraente per i turisti. È un bel luogo, sulle colline con un grande lago nel vicinato. Le chiese barocche e le vie strette ricordano i paesi orientali. I turisti vengono per sentire la vecchia lingua arberist e per vedere l'abbigliamento esotico. Ma sono i riti pasquali della Chiesa Bizantina che culminano nella celebrazione della Settimana Santa che attraggono la maggioranza dei visitatori. Questa Settimana comincia la Domenica delle Palme con una processione per le strade di Piana Degli Albanesi guidata dal vescovo a dorso d'asino. Poi, il Giovedì Santo, un sacerdote che impersona San Pietro rievoca la lavanda dei piedi di San Pietro accettando di farsi lavare interamente dal vescovo. Il Venerdì Santo il vescovo e i parrocchiani intonano la storia della Passione di Cristo. E poi la Domenica di Pasqua seguendo la liturgia, una sfilata di donne nei sontuosi costumi tradizionali si avvia dalla Cattedrale verso la piazza principale dove viene impartita la benedizione seguita dalla distribuzione delle uova rosse.

Questa settimana del festival Pasquale è diventata così famosa che la Eparchia di Piana Degli Albanesi la promuove come un grande evento turistico, la Pasqua Arberesh. Oggi i festival e le sfilate sono seguiti da una serie di spettacoli musicali e folcloristici durante l'intera settimana. Il paese è anche famoso per i suoi enormi cannoli, due o tre volte più grandi degli altri cannoli siciliani o napoletani. A Carnevale, i panettieri locali fanno cannoli speciali, lunghi due metri.

Non so se gli arbereshi si siano mai assimilati nella società italiana. Come gli amish in America o altri enclavi di stranieri nel mondo, gli arbereshi tentano con grande cura di mantenere la differenza fra loro e gli altri italiani. Infatti, il governo italiano ha riconosciuto il diritto degli abitanti di essere trattati come una popolazione speciale. Recentemente, c'è anche una rinascita d'interesse nell'eredità albanese e uno sforzo d'insegnare arberist nelle scuole. Molti rifugiati dal Kosovo sono emigrati qui durante e dopo la guerra bosniaca. Siccome i kosovari sono Mussulmani in gran parte, sarebbe interessante vedere come i loro costumi influiscono sugli altri cittadini di Piana Degli Albanesi.

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***Did you know that the longest word in the Italian language is "precipitevolissimevolmente" meaning precipitately in English. You can find it on YouTube!!***

The descendants of these Albanian immigrants still live there south of Palermo. They have preserved their ethnic identity for five hundred years, keeping their linguistic and religious peculiarities intact. They speak a type of Albanian, "Arberist", that was spoken in Albania before the Turkish invasion. They continue to follow the Byzantine rites used in the Catholic churches of Magna Grecia. They celebrate the Mass in Greek and they follow the Byzantine liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom. In addition, the people preserve the clothing fashions of Albania in past centuries. During wedding ceremonies and the principal religious holidays, women wear the traditional costumes. This outfit consists of a skirt and a blouse with an appropriate sports jacket. The fabric is embroidered in gold and all the women are adorned with jewels typical of Sicilian jewelry of the sixteenth century. In addition each village has an Italian and an Arberesh name and local news is published in Arberist.

Piana Degli Albanesi is an attractive destination for tourists. It is a beautiful area, on hills with a large lake in the vicinity. The Baroque churches and the narrow streets recall eastern countries. Tourists come to hear the old Arberist language and to see the exotic clothing. But it is the Eastern rites of the Byzantine church that culminate in the celebration of Holy Week that attract the majority of the visitors. This week starts on Palm Sunday with a procession along the streets of Piana Degli Albanesi led by the bishop on a donkey's back, Then on Holy Thursday, the bishop and the parishioners, a priest playing the part of Saint Peter reenacts the washing of feet, letting himself be washed by the bishop. On Holy Friday the bishop and parishioners sing the story of the Passion of Christ. Then, on Easter Sunday, following the liturgy, a procession of women in traditional sumptuous dress moves from the cathedral towards the main square, where the benediction is given, followed by distribution of red eggs.

This week of the Easter festival has become so famous that the Eparchy of Piana Degli Albanesi promotes it as a big tourist event, Arberesh Easter. Today the festival and the processions are followed by a series of musical and folkloric spectacles during an entire week. The town is also famous for its enormous cannoli, two or three times larger than the other Sicilian or Neapolitan cannoli. At Carnevale, the local bakers make special cannoli two meters long.

I don't know whether the Arberesh have ever become assimilated into Italian society. Like the Amish in America or other foreign enclaves in the world, the Arberesh try with great care to maintain the difference between themselves and other Italians. In fact. The Italian government has recognized the right of the people to be treated as a special people. Recently there is a rebirth of interest in the Albanian heritage and an effort to teach Arberist in the schools. Many refugees from Kosovo have emigrated there after the Bosnian war. Since the Kosovars are mostly Muslims, it would be interesting to see how their customs influence the other citizens of Piana Degli Albanesi.

## ITALIAN OPERA: HOW AND WHY IT BEGAN

At the March 15 social meeting of the ICS Prof. Elaine Walter, of Catholic University, had the rapt attention of the audience with her interesting presentation of "Italian Opera: How and Why It Began". Italian opera got its start just before 1600, as the Renaissance period was drawing to a close and the early Baroque period began. It eventually developed as the most popular form of "serious" music, though at that time and to this day it has also been the most expensive to produce. During the Renaissance, musical performances were largely vocal, and sometimes with instruments merely doubling the vocal lines. It was also polyphonic, to the point where the simultaneous voices made it difficult to discern the actual words, as in the madrigals of that era, when the music was considered more important than the words. Prof. Walter demonstrated how chaotic this sounded by having different parts of the audience sing different tunes simultaneously. This changed in 1607 when, in Mantova, Monteverdi broke with this format and composed *Orfeo*, the first real "Italian opera".

Meanwhile, in Florence a club of men, known as the Florentine Camerata, was meeting periodically to discuss literature, philosophy and the arts. One of the topics being debated was how the Greek tragedies must have been performed in their day. They concluded that they were tragic stories accompanied by music. To focus on delivery of text, this new musical genre...opera...included the following: the *recitative*, a kind of monologue/dialogue "speech/song" with simple accompaniment that told the story and moved the plot forward; the *aria*, a dramatic solo, commenting on the events; the *ritornello*, an instrumental interlude that was repeated within the aria; and the *chorus* that punctuated the scenes or highlighted major dramatic events. This became the standard for Italian opera through the early 19<sup>th</sup> century with Rossini, Donizetti, and Bellini.

For centuries, music was performed only in homes of noble families and in church settings until Venice built the first public opera house in 1637. Monteverdi, meanwhile, had moved to Venice and staged *L'Incoronazione di Poppea*, the first opera portraying real people, not just gods. This brought opera to the middle classes, and it became immensely popular, especially in Venice. Italian opera was not composed only by Italians. It was also a genre in which the likes of Handel, Haydn, and Mozart worked. It underwent numerous changes over the years. Opera performances became venues for social preening and even transacting business, detracting from the quality of the musical experience, until Wagner insisted on decorum in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Prof. Walter gave a short synopsis of *La Cenerentola*, a Rossini opera to be simulcast on May 9, for which ICS is organizing an attendance by our members. (If you take the kids be advised that the details of the story line are very different from the ones in Cinderella). Prof. Walter hinted she would like to come back and tell us more



(picture of Prof. Walter at top left of page 5)

## ICS ANNUAL AWARDS APPLICATIONS

Applications are being sought for the following Awards:

1. **The Elena and Antonio De Luca Award** of \$1,000 to a scholar who has excelled in the study of Latin and/or Greek.
2. **The Fred La Marca Award** for studies in the Humanities in the amount of \$1,000 to be given to a person who has excelled in the Humanities.
3. **The Candida Di Croce Italian Language Award** of \$1,000 to be given to a scholar who has excelled in learning the Italian Language and shows promise of continued commitment to excel in the Language and Culture of Italy.
4. **The Vincenzo Palumbo Artisan Award** of \$1,000 to be given to an artisan who has distinguished him/herself in working with stone, wood, natural and synthetic fibers and other relevant media.
5. **The Ruggero Moriggi Artist Award** of \$1,000 to be given to a scholar, who has excelled in the Arts. Written reviews, recordings and/or photographs, etc. of work must be submitted to the Committee.
6. **The Young Scientist Award** of \$1,000 to be given to a scholar who has excelled in mathematics and/or physical or biological science.
7. **The Pietro Antonio Donna Italian Scholarship** of \$600 for a high school student who has excelled in the study of Italian

Applicants should be no more than 25 years of age (except for Award No. 4, for which older applicants are accepted) by **Friday May 15th 2009**, the post-marked date for receipt of applications. Materials to be included in the application are:

1. College transcripts when appropriate (not required for Award No. 4)
2. Three letters of recommendation
3. An essay describing why the applicant feels worthy of the award
4. A short biographical presentation of the candidate (curriculum vitae)
5. Anything that would demonstrate the ability of the candidate, including publications by and/or about the candidate, photographs, CD's, etc.

**Applications must be postmarked no later than May 15, 2009 and mailed to:**

**The Italian Cultural Society, Awards Section,  
4848 Battery Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814**

**Awards will be presented at the gala dinner, which will take place on Sunday, June 7**, as will be advertised in our newsletter Poche Parole. Attendance at the dinner is compulsory and awards will be reassigned if the winner is unable to attend except for exceptional circumstances as determined by the Awards Committee.

about Italian opera and its history. ICS President Luigi DeLuca said he had never seen an ICS audience so captivated by a speaker in his nine years as president and indeed, Prof. Walter has accepted his invitation to return as our speaker in May..



**Professor Elaine Walter**

**GIUSEPPE PETROSINO**

(August 30, 1860 – March 12, 1909)

On March 12, a ceremony was held at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in downtown Washington to mark the 100th anniversary of the assassination of Giuseppe "Joe" Petrosino an NYPD officer who was a pioneer in the fight against organized crime.

**See also page 11**

In 1874, Petrosino and his family emigrated to the United States from Padula, Salerno. In 1883 he joined the NY Police Department. During his service, he would become friends with Theodore Roosevelt, who was police commissioner of New York City at the time. The pinnacle of his career came in December 1908<sup>[1]</sup> when he was promoted to Lieutenant and placed in charge of the Italian Squad, an elite corps of Italian-American detectives specifically assembled to deal with the criminal activities of organizations like the Mafia, which Petrosino saw as a shame to decent Italians.

A notable case was his infiltration of an Italian-based anarchist organization that assassinated King Umberto I of Italy. He discovered evidence that the organization intended to assassinate President William McKinley during his trip to Buffalo. Petrosino warned the Secret Service, but McKinley ignored the warning, even after Roosevelt, who had by this time become Vice-President of the United States, vouched for Petrosino's abilities. As a result, McKinley was assassinated by Leon Czolgosz during his visit to Buffalo's Pan-American Exposition on September 6, 1901.

Petrosino's investigations into Mafia activities led him to Don Vito Cascio Ferro, the godfather of the Mafia in New York. In 1903, Petrosino arrested him on suspicion of murder, but Cascio Ferro was acquitted. He later returned to Sicily, where he became increasingly involved with the Sicilian Mafia.

In 1909, Petrosino made plans to travel to Palermo, on a top secret mission. However, because of the

**GIUSEPPE PETROSINO**

(30 agosto, 1860 – 12 marzo, 1909) Traduzione

Il 12 marzo, in una cerimonia presso il Monumento Nazionale degli Ufficiali di Polizia a Washington DC e' stato commemorato il centenario dell' assassinio di Giuseppe "Joe" Petrosino, un ufficiale di polizia di New York che era stato un pioniere nella lotta contro le organizzazioni criminali.



Nel 1874, Petrosino e la sua famiglia emigrarono negli Stati Uniti da Padula, Salerno. Nel 1883 si arruolò nella polizia di New York. Durante il suo servizio divenne amico di Theodore Roosevelt, che era allora commissario della polizia di New York. Raggiunse l'apice della sua carriera nel dicembre del 1908 quando fu promosso a tenente e diventò capo della "Squadra Italiana", un corpo di agenti italo-americani organizzato specificamente per combattere le organizzazioni criminali come la mafia, che Petrosino considerava una vergogna per gli italiani onesti.

Un'operazione importante fu sua infiltrazione in una organizzazione italiana anarchica che assassinò il Re d'Italia Umberto I. Scopì prove che l'organizzazione intendeva assassinare il Presidente William McKinley durante il suo viaggio a Buffalo. Petrosino avvertì il Servizio Segreto, ma McKinley ignorò l'avvertimento anche dopo che Roosevelt, allora Vicepresidente, si fece garante delle capacità di Petrosino. Il risultato fu che McKinley fu assassinato da Leon Czolgosz il 6 settembre del 1901 durante la sua visita all'Esposizione Panamericana di Buffalo.

Le indagini di Petrosino sulle attività della mafia lo portarono a Don Vito Cascio Ferro, il "padrino" della mafia di New York. Nel 1903 Petrosino lo arrestò con l'accusa di omicidio, però Cascio Ferro fu assolto. Più tardi tornò in Sicilia, dove rimase sempre più coinvolto con la mafia siciliana.

Nel 1909 Petrosino aveva programmato di fare un viaggio in gran segretezza a Palermo però a causa dell'incompetenza del commissario della polizia di New York, Thomas Bingham, il New York Herald pubblicò la storia della missione di Petrosino il 20 febbraio del 1909, pochi giorni prima della sua partenza. Benché fosse conscio del pericolo, Petrosino si imbarcò per Palermo. Però

incompetence of Thomas Bingham, New York's police commissioner, the New York Herald published the story of Petrosino's mission on February 20, 1909, just days before his departure. Even though he was aware of the danger, Petrosino headed to Palermo as planned. However, this decision would prove fatal. Petrosino wrongly believed that the Sicilian Mafia would not kill a policeman, since they did not in America.

On March 12, 1909, after arriving in Palermo, Petrosino received a message from someone claiming to be an informant, asking the detective to meet him in the city's Piazza Marina to give him information about the Mafia. Petrosino arrived at the rendezvous, but it was a trap. While waiting for his 'informant,' Petrosino was shot to death by Mafia assassins.

Vito Cascio Ferro was arrested for Petrosino's murder but was released after an associate provided an alibi. However, he later claimed to other crime figures that he had killed Petrosino. This helped propel him into the position of "boss of bosses". Ferro died in prison in 1943 after being arrested in 1927 for another murder he probably did not commit.

On April 12, 1909, Petrosino's funeral, attended by 250,000 people, was held in Manhattan. New York City declared the day of his burial a holiday to allow its citizens to pay their respects. A small plaza just north of the old NYPD Headquarters at 240 Center Street in Manhattan was renamed in his memory.

Petrosino's story would be discussed on the 2-hour History Channel program *Godfathers*, which featured commentary concerning his life by Mario Cuomo, former governor of New York, and Bernard Kerik, former police commissioner of New York City.

Three biographical films have been made of Petrosino's life including Sidney M. Goldin's *The Adventures of Lieutenant Petrosino* (1912) as well as *Pay or Die* (1960) starring Ernest Borgnine and *The Black Hand* (1973) starring Lionel Stander. He has also been the subject of the Italian television series *Joe Petrosino*, where he was portrayed by Beppe Fiorello.

*Adapted from Wikipedia*

**ICS GOES TO THE (VIRTUAL) OPERA LIVE IN HD FROM THE METROPOLITAN !!**

If you attended the ICS monthly social meeting of March 15, you would have heard the announcement about the Metropolitan Opera simulcast of *La Cenerentola* on Saturday, May 9 at the Regal Germantown Stadium 14 movie theater at 20000 Century Blvd, Germantown, Md. 20874 at 12:30 PM, live in HD from the Met. One person at the social meeting described these simulcasts as even better than being present at the Met itself, and they are a bargain at \$22 (Seniors, \$20). Ron Cappelletti is organizing a get-together for dinner after the show, so after you get your tickets through the Fandango link below, email Ron and tell him how many people are in your group so he can make arrangements and give you directions on where to meet. His email address is [ron.cappelletti@gmail.com](mailto:ron.cappelletti@gmail.com). We hope to see you at



questa decisione si rivelerebbe un errore fatale. Petrosino credette erroneamente che la mafia siciliana non avrebbe ucciso un poliziotto, perche' cosi' non succedeva in America.

Il 12 marzo del 1909, arrivato a Palermo, Petrosino ricevette un messaggio da una persona che affermava di essere un informatore, chiedendo all' agente di incontrarlo in Piazza Marina per dargli delle informazioni sulla mafia. Petrosino arrivo' all' appuntamento, ma fu un inganno. Mentre aspettava il suo "informatore", Petrosino fu ucciso da assassini della mafia.

Vito Cascio Ferro fu arrestato per l' omicidio di Petrosino, ma venne rilasciato dopo che un suo socio gli fornì un alibi. Pero' piu' tardi si vantò di aver ucciso Petrosino con altri criminali. Questo lo aiutò a diventare "capo di tutti i capi". Ferro morì in prigione nel 1943 dopo essere stato arrestato nel 1927 per un omicidio che probabilmente non aveva commesso.

Il 12 aprile del 1909 il funerale di Petrosino ebbe luogo a Manhattan e fu seguito da 250,000 persone, La Citta di New York dichiarò festivo il giorno del funerale in modo che i concittadini potessero portare i loro ossequi. Una piccola piazza subito a nord della vecchia sede del Dipartimento di Polizia in 240 Center Street a Manhattan e' stata dedicata alla sua memoria.

La storia di Petrosino e' stata oggetto di un programma televisivo di due ore nel History Channel chiamato *Godfathers*. Questo programma comprendeva commenti sulla vita di Petrosino di Mario Cuomo, ex Governatore dello Stato di New York e Bernard Kerik, ex Commissario di Polizia di New York City.

Tre film biografici sono stati girati sulla vita di Petrosino: *The Adventures of Lieutenant Petrosino*, di Sidney Goldin (1912), *Pay or Die* (1960) con Ernest Borgnine, e *The Black Hand* (1973) con Lionel Stander. E' anche stato il soggetto della serie televisiva italiana *Joe Petrosino*, dove la sua figura e' stata coperta da Beppe Fiorello.



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[http://www.fandango.com/the-metropolitan-opera-lacenerentola-118182/movietimes?wssac=58&date=05/09/2009&wssaffid=11551-NationalCineMedia\(NCM\)&tid=AAQKT](http://www.fandango.com/the-metropolitan-opera-lacenerentola-118182/movietimes?wssac=58&date=05/09/2009&wssaffid=11551-NationalCineMedia(NCM)&tid=AAQKT)

**ICS Poche Parole Publication**  
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**Romeo Segnan, Paolo Vidoli, 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: [icsparole@verizon.net](mailto:icsparole@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 Board of Directors and their Responsibilities**

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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:

Rose Coniglio, Joseph Bangiolo, Leslie Hutchison  
Nicole Andrea Porcaro, Vittorio e Patrizia Masoni  
Frank J. Mayo Family

*Benvenuti ! Cesarina Horing, Membership Chair*

---

Dominic R. Massaro, *President*  
*American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit*  
*Eight East 69<sup>th</sup> Street*  
*New York, NY 10021*

Dear President Massaro: 3/15/2009

I would like to express my thanks to you and to the distinguished members of the Board of the American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit for the kind donation of 1,000 dollars towards the Italian Cultural Society's scholarship program. I am proud that we were able to found this program some 10 years ago to recognize talent of young students in both the humanistic as well as the scientific disciplines. We also recognize the ability of our Italian artisans in older individuals who have distinguished themselves in working with stone, ceramic, wood, leather and other media.

Without your help, this year's scholarship fund might not be as successful as we know it will be.

With our best wishes,

Luigi M. De Luca,  
Commendatore & Presidente, Italian Cultural Society

**For All Your Italian Food  
Specialties & Catering**

**Come to the**

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**12169 Darnestown Road (Rt.28)**

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**Darnestown Rd & Quince Orchard Rd**

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catering**

**Featuring an extensive line of  
Italian food favorites, wine & beer  
Italian deli products, panini, subs  
and sandwiches, fresh mozzarella**

**BUONA PASQUA!**

**Easter - Specialty Goods**

**\*Large Italian Milk Chocolate Eggs\***

**\*Baccala, \*Torrone \***

**Perugina Chocolates \***

**\*Large Albertengo Panettone Sale\***

**From \$24.99 to \$9.99**

**\*\*\*\*\***

*Bring this Poche Parole ad with you for a  
Special 10% discount !  
(except for beer, wine, or other beverages)*

# 2009 ANNUAL GALA AWARDS DINNER

## of the Italian Cultural Society

SUNDAY EVENING, JUNE 7, 2008

6:00 pm.

at

**TRAGARA**

4935 Cordell Ave., Bethesda, MD 301-951-4935

Antipasti: Spanakopita, Chicken Brochette à l'Orange

Insalata Mista



Choice of the following entrees, a glass of wine and unlimited soda included:

1) **Pollo Forestiere:** Breast of chicken with sauteed wild mushrooms and a light fresh sage sauce

2) **Branzino all' ICS:** Grilled Chilean sea bass on a bed of escarole, with chives and lemon sauce.

3) **Bistecca di Manzo di New York:** New York strip steak grilled with a blend of seasonings, with grilled vegetables and potatoes croquette.

tea or coffee with Tiramisù for dessert

--- cash bar ---

\$65 per person, inclusive of valet parking and gratuity

Cut here -----

Please return this portion with your check and selections. Make check out to the *Italian Cultural Society* and send it postmarked no later than May 24 to: *GALA*

*Italian Cultural Society*  
4848 Battery Lane  
Bethesda, MD 20814

No. of persons \_\_\_@ \$65\_\_\_ plus additional donation to ICS Scholarship Fund \_\_\_ TOTAL \$ \_\_\_

	Chicken	Fish	Beef
Name -----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name -----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name -----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name -----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Telephone number in case we need to contact you: \_\_\_\_\_
- Sorry, I am not able to come and I enclose a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as a contribution for the Scholarship Fund.

# FESTA ITALIANA DC 2009 IS COMING!

SUNDAY JUNE 28 11:30 AM – 5:30 PM

## And our support is needed!

At one time, Washington, D.C., had its very own Little Italy! The area around Holy Rosary Church, at 3<sup>rd</sup> and F Streets N.W., was once home to a thriving Italian neighborhood, complete with frequent *feste* – street festivals. In 1999, Washington's active and growing Italian community came together to revive the traditions of their ancestors, and Festa Italiana, DC was born and has continued every year since!

Our Society along with the other sponsoring organizations, Holy Rosary Church Council and FIERI, has established a separate non-profit entity, the Festa Italiana Foundation, to organize and stage the Festa. Currently, the FIF is in its planning stage and our Society is represented by three members on the FIF Board, Luigi DeLuca, Joe Onofrietti, and Arrigo Mongini. Romeo Segnan, Aldo Grossi, Nick Monaco and Victor Canino are also making important contributions.

**Festa planning is now at the point where volunteers are being sought from all the sponsoring organizations. ICS members interested in volunteering are requested to complete the following information and either bring this form to an ICS Social meeting to hand in at the front raffle table or mail it to Arrigo Mongini, 5541 Mohican Rd., Bethesda, MD 20816 and call him at 301-229-1653.**

You will find volunteering to stage this colorful and lively Festa to be very rewarding and is a means by which to show your pride in our shared heritage.

***For those who are not able to volunteer, your support by being at the Festa on June 28 will help make it a success! Ci vediamo là!***

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## Festa Italiana 2009 Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet

**YES, I would like to help with the 2009 Festa Italiana street festival on Sunday, June 28!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Special talents/skills: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in helping the following committee(s) – see descriptions at bottom of page:

PR/Publicity  Logistics  Raffle  Culture  Entertainment  Vendors/Sponsors  
 Italian-American Organizations  Souvenir Program  Volunteer on Festa Day

The best day(s) and time(s) for me to help prior to the Festa are (check all that apply):

Monday  Tuesday  Wednesday  Thursday  Friday  Saturday  Sunday

Time(s): \_\_\_\_\_

### Committee Descriptions:

- o **PR/Publicity:** Develop and execute a vigorous publicity campaign using all available media in the DC metro area, via distribution of press releases, media advisories, community outreach, posters, flyers, etc.
- o **Culture:** Prepare and stage presentations of the featured region of Italy (Rome and Lazio). Coordinate all elements of presentations and keep PR committee informed of nature and scope of presentations.
- o **Vendor/Sponsors:** Secure paying vendors, including food purveyors, crafters, and artisans, as well as sponsors for financial donations. Requires soliciting, providing leads, negotiating, etc.
- o **Logistics:** Secure DC permits and arrange for police protection. Provide all vendor site layout and support, electrical supply, portable toilets, waste management, etc.
- o **Entertainment:** Book all entertainers, arrange for emcees and develop schedule for entertainment events. Set up outdoor stage and prepare scripts. Set up indoor events, locations for children's activities, and other indoor entertainment. Keep PR committee informed of all entertainment arrangements. See to the comfort of performers on the day of Festa.
- o **Souvenir Program:** Design content and layout, including photos. Solicit advertisers and sponsors.
- o **Raffle:** Solicit or acquire raffle items. Manage raffle sales prior to and during Festa. Run raffle drawing on the day of Festa. Keep PR committee informed of prizes to be raffled off.
- o **Italian-American Organizations:** Promote the participation of other metro-area Italian-American organizations in the Festa and serve as liaisons to those organizations' representatives on the day of Festa.
- o **General Volunteer on Festa Day:** Be available for various shifts the day of Festa, i.e., selling raffle tickets, setting up or tearing down, facilitating various activities, etc.

## REPORT ON MEMBERS' SURVEY SUMMARY OF INPUT AND BOARD REVIEW

Last November the ICS Board initiated a comprehensive Member's Survey with the two-fold objective of:

1. Seeking member suggestions regarding ICS programs and events, and the Poche Parole, to help the Society grow and to make it more meaningful to the members.
2. Inviting the general membership to become more involved in the operation of our Society.

The first phase of the Survey was completed in Mid-January, the due date for members to submit their surveys to the ICS Board. Upon initial review, Board found those responding generally indicated strong approval of the Society's current operations and the Poche Parole. However, many useful suggestions were submitted for program subjects, outside events, and other possible improvements. The President then established an ad hoc Committee, chaired by ICS Vice-President Paolo Vidoli, to conduct preliminary evaluations the members' suggestions with the goal of submitting recommended implementations to the full Board. The Board will keep the Society members updated on actions in response to the Survey inputs with the expectation that by demonstrating its responsiveness to members' suggestions, members will be encouraged to increase their participation in ICS activities. Member participation, after all, is the ultimate objective of our Society to foster ICS' stated mission, **"To preserve and promote the Italian Culture for all."**

Before reporting on the salient points from the Survey, President De Luca and the Board wish to express their sincere appreciation to the 40 members who made the effort to prepare and submit a completed Survey. While having the benefit of the suggestions is very important to the Board, the most significant result of Survey is the many members who offered to work with the ICS Committees and those who volunteered to help organize Society events. The Board looks forward to working with these volunteers to expand its activities on the behalf of the membership and to encourage enhanced participation.

Here are some of the statistics and salient points discerned for the Survey inputs:

1. Number of Surveys submitted: 40, from a total ICS membership of over 400. The Board considers this to be a sufficient representation of the membership upon which to develop an implementation plan.
2. Percent of those responding who expressed general satisfaction with the current location, time and format of the nine monthly Social Meetings during the September to May Social year: 93%.
3. Percent of those responding who attend the Social Meetings anywhere from one to nine times during the Social Year: 85%, which includes 53% who attend five to nine times.
4. Number of suggestions for future Social Meetings program/presentations: 22
5. Number of suggestions to achieve a higher level of attendance at the Social Meetings: 24 (Note that currently our regular Social Meetings have an attendance ranging from 40 to 60 people while special Socials, like the Festa di Natale have 100 plus people.)
6. Interest in Planning Other Events outside of the Social Meetings:
  - a. Touring museum exhibits: 45%
  - b. Operas and concerts: 39% each
  - c. Bus day trips, overseas tours, and dining out at local Italian restaurants: 37% each
  - d. Suggestions for other events: 7 % who provided 18 suggestions
7. Numbers of members volunteering to help plan and organize other events: 23
8. Number of suggestions to attract and recruit new ICS members: 24
9. Number of volunteers to work with current ICS Board Committees: 13 which includes some who volunteered for more than one Committee
10. Poche Parole
  - a. Percent of those responding who felt that receipt of Poche Parole about two weeks before the monthly Social Meetings was timely: 83%
  - b. Percent of those responding who read Poche Parole within three days of receipt: 92%
  - c. Leading suggestions for additions/changes to Poche Parole format or content:
    - (1.) Recipes from members: 76%
    - (2.) News from Italy, articles by Social Meeting presenters before and/or after presentations, and articles on famous Italians and Italian Americans: 68% each
    - (3.) Suggestions for other additions: 18

In actions taken so far regarding the Survey input, the Survey Committee held a meeting recently and prepared the following initial recommendations to the Board:

- Establish procedures to help new members feel more welcome at the monthly Social Meetings.
- Establish a working group to plan and implement visits to local events within the scope of the Society, such as visits at museums, Italian festivals, musical events.
- Establish a working group to plan and implement visits to events away from the local area within the scope of the society.

In summary, those responding to the Members' Survey have overwhelmingly endorsed the ICS current operations and Poche Parole current format and delivery time. The Survey was very successful as there were many worthy suggestions submitted and many members stepped forward to offer their services. However, as with any viable organization, a one-time Survey does not close the door to future suggestions from the membership nor does it close the door to others who care enough to volunteer in assisting the Board in conducting ICS operations. **The Board invites anyone having future suggestions or wishing to volunteer should contact our Vice-President Paolo Vidoli, phone: 703-506-9837 or e-mail: [pvidoli@verizon.net](mailto:pvidoli@verizon.net).**

Lastly, the Board wishes to congratulate ICS member Helen Starr, who won the Survey raffle prize. Helen's name was drawn at our February Festa di Carnevale from all those who had submitted completed Surveys. Appropriately enough, she selected the Italian Language Course prize provided by our Italian Language Program.

**Remarks by James Di Santis, NIAF's National Executive Director, at the 100th Anniversary Ceremony of the Assassination of Lt. Joseph Petrosino**  
*(text and pictures courtesy of Voce Italiana)*

Today we pause to remember a great Italian American who made the ultimate sacrifice in his personal and professional quest for social justice. Although he was assassinated 100 years ago, he still symbolizes the very best of Italian ideals. The life of Lt. Joseph Petrosino has more than historical relevance because those principles for which he fought are principles that we should observe as Italian Americans in 2009.

As the National Executive Director of the National Italian American Foundation, I am keenly aware of the survival of negative and unfair ethnic stereotypes of Italian Americans. Too many journalists still feel comfortable in drawing associations between Italian Americans and organized crime. They overlook our strengths as an ethnic group that still cherishes a strong family structure, deep religious conviction and a passion for doing what is right.

That is why it is so important that we recall the story of Lt. Petrosino. That is why it is so important that we recognize modern-day Lt. Petrosino's who dedicate their lives to sustaining a society that is characterized by its respect for the law. We can all take great pride in those Italian Americans in law enforcement, the legal profession and who carry out their responsibilities with dignity, fairness and passion.



**James Di Santis**



**Francis Allegra, Ronald Cimino, Francesco Isgro, James Di Santis**

# 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**

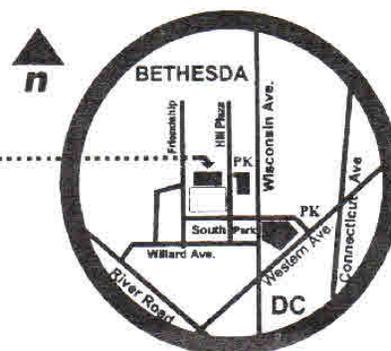
- Theater
- Literature
- Opera
- 20-40s
- Children (3-13)
- Museums
- Outdoor activities
- Incontri a cena
- Conversation
- Travelling
- Dancing
- Cultural progr.
- Fund Raising

*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.*

