



# *poche parole*

**The Italian Cultural Society of Washington D.C.**  
*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, (except Feb., 2010) at the Friendship Heights Village Center, 4433 South Park Ave., Chevy Chase, MD (See map on back cover)**

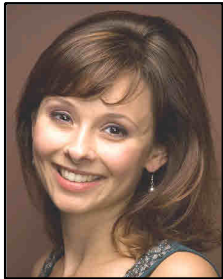
**Sunday, February 14: *FESTA DI CARNEVALE* (NOTE, FEB 14, not 21 this time) Details on page 2.**

**THERE WILL BE NO MOVIE AND NO ITALIAN LESSONS ON FEBRUARY 14**

**Sunday, March 21: Celest DiPietropaolo and Marie DiCocco of Italian Village Dance will present a program on Italian traditional dances, including audience participation.**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In spite of the cold weather, January has been an active month for the ICS. At our Jan. 17 meeting V.O.I.C.E.'s Bruna Genovese made a spirited presentation on community organizing. Her engaging approach in talking about current immigrant issues evoked varied and passionate responses from our membership as people related their own experiences to these issues.



And less than a week later on Jan. 23 52 people took part in a bus tour organized by the ICS to Baltimore to see the "Da Vinci, the Genius" exhibit at the Md. Sci. Center. My personal appreciation goes to Olga Mancuso for suggesting this activity and for the tremendous job Nick Monaco and his team did in organizing this event. Those present had nothing but praise for the way the event went, from the croissants and coffee Nick provided before we boarded the bus, to *brindisi* and music as we traveled, to the exhibit itself. Our day was enhanced by wonderful camaraderie at a delicious luncheon at the *Sotto Sopra* restaurant in Baltimore that Olga had arranged, and was capped off by that signature Monaco trademark, a raffle (a free one!) with prizes aboard the bus as we returned. It was a first-class operation from start to finish, and bodes well for such trips we are considering for the future, such as a tour of VA wineries in the spring.

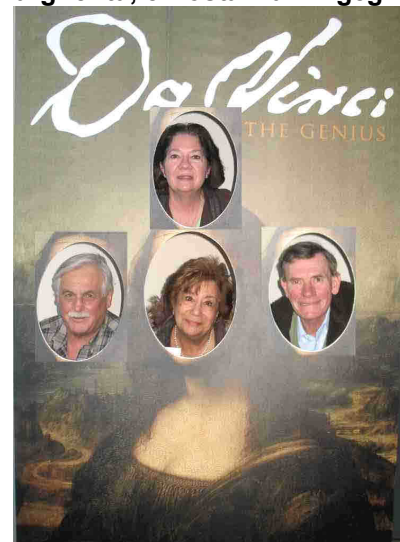
On February 14 (yes, Valentine's day!) we will be holding our annual *Carnevale* party. There will be a *piñata* and entertainment for the children and dancing for the adults and, in addition to our contests for unusual costumes, masks, etc., we will have a competition for the couple wearing the best costumes for lovers, representing, say, *Giulietta e Romeo*, *Dante and Beatrice*, *Laura e Petrarca*, or even *L'il Abner and Daisy Mae*! Use your imaginations, put on your glad rags and come join the fun.

*Ron Cappadotti, president*

Here are some pictures from the Da Vinci event.  
**(MORE ON PAGE 11)**



**Filippo, Margherita, e Costanza...ingegneri in erba**



**Mamma mia, se Leonardo vedesse questo !!**

2. Carnevale program
3. Notes on Carnevale
4. Conferenza del Ministro Frattini

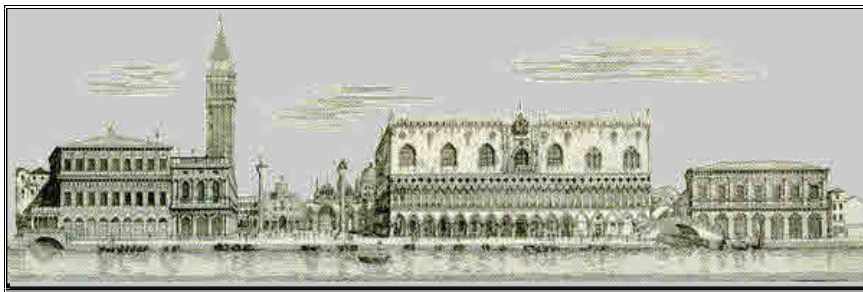
4. Giorgio Morandi
6. New ICS Members
7. San Gimignano

9. Embassy Press Release
9. Nuova Sede. It. Language Prog.
9. First Counselor Maggipinto

10. ICS Outside Events Committee
10. Local Events
11. More DaVinci Pictures



PUTIGNANO



VENICE, QUEEN OF CARNIVAL FEASTS



VIAREGGIO

*the Italian Cultural Society*

*invites you to celebrate Carnevale with*

# *Un Ballo in Maschera*

**Sunday February 14, 2010**

**3 to 6 PM**

**Friendship Heights Village Center  
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## NOTES ON THE VENETIAN AND OTHER ITALIAN CARNEVALE FEASTS



*La stagion del Carnevale  
tutto il Mondo fa cambiar.  
Chi sta bene e chi sta male  
Carnevale fa rallegrar.  
Chi ha denari se li spende;  
chi non ne ha ne vuol trovar;  
e s'impegna, e poi si vende,  
per andarsi a sollazzar.  
Qua la moglie e là il marito,  
ognuno va dove gli par;  
ognun corre a qualche invito,  
chi a giocare e chi a ballar.*

### A Short History

The oldest document pertaining to the use of masks in Venice dates back to 2nd May 1268. In the document it is written that it was forbidden for masqueraders to practice the game of the "eggs". From the early 14th century onwards, new laws started to be promulgated, with the aim of stopping the relentless moral decline of the Venetian people of the day. This restrictive carnival legislation started with a decree on 22nd February 1339 prohibiting masqueraders from going around the city at night. A decree that helps us understand just how libertine the Venetians of the day were, is that of the 24th January 1458 which forbade men from entering convents dressed as women to commit "multas inhonestates"! In a similar vein, the decree of 3rd February 1603 is interesting in that it attempted to restore morality in the convents.

Masqueraders were banned from entering the nuns' parlors - it had been the convention to sit in the parlors and talk to the nuns. Frequently, decrees were promulgated prohibiting masqueraders from carrying arms or any instrument which could cause harm, or other decrees which forbade masqueraders from entering churches. This obligation was extended to the townsfolk who were not allowed to enter churches wearing "indecent attire". 1608 was an important year, the 13th August to be precise, when a decree from the council of 10 was issued declaring that the wearing of the mask throughout the year posed a serious threat to the Republic. To avoid the terrible consequences of this immoral behavior, every citizen, nobleman and foreigner alike, was obliged to only wear a mask during the days of carnival and at official banquets.

The penalties inflicted for breaking this law were heavy - for a man this meant two years in jail, 18 months' service to the Republic galley-rowing (with ankles fettered) and not only that, a 500 lire fine to the Council of 10. As for women, they were whipped from St. Mark's all the way to Rialto, then held to public ridicule between the two columns in St Mark's. They were banned from entering the territory of the Venetian Republic for 4 years and had to pay the 500 lire fine to the Council of 10. Fifty years after the decree of 1608, the Council of 10 published a proclamation on the 15<sup>th</sup> January reaffirming the ban on wearing masks and bearing arms. ►►►►►

It was further prohibited to enter holy places wearing a mask and it was forbidden to wear religious clothes with a mask. In the same decree the use of drums was banned before midday, and even dancing of any description was prohibited outside of the carnival period. Seeing that many Venetian nobles used to go gambling wearing a mask to avoid their creditors, in 1703, masks were banned all year round from casinos.

Two different decrees (1699 and 1718) saw the prohibition of wearing a mask during Lent and other religious festivals which took place during carnival. In 1776, an act introduced to protect the, by now forgotten, "family honor", forbade all women from going to the theatre without a mask and cloak. After the fall of the Republic, the Austrian government forbade the use of masks for all private parties.



Pantalone is the best-known of the Venetian masks. From its first appearance amongst the theatrical commedia dell'arte companies, Pantalone "the Magnificent" spoke in unadulterated Venetian dialect. It is said his name derives from San Pantaleone, one of the city's most venerated saints after whom a church is even named. Others say the name comes from "Piantaleoni" referring to the

merchants who went to "plant the lion" of San Marco in conquered lands, places where it was possible to establish new trade.

Italy's Carnevale is not confined to Venice. Celebrations occur throughout Italy, and here are some examples:

In **Ivrea**, north of Torino, there is a mock battle between the townspeople and the forces of Federico Barbarossa which involves both sides throwing oranges at each other.

**Viareggio**, on the Tuscan coast has one of the biggest and highly commercialized celebrations with paper maché floats. In **Oristano**, Sardinia, they celebrate with horse races, and reenactment of a medieval jousting tournament, and in the **Barbagia** mountain villages of Sardinia, men dress up and mimic bulls and sheep as they parade through town in ceremonies rooted in ancient cults.

**Acireale**, Sicily, celebrates with flower and paper maché floats. **Pont San Martin**, in Val d' Aosta has a Roman celebration involving togas and chariot races. **Cento**, in Emilia-Romagna has a celebration tied to the Carnival of Rio de Janeiro with participants from all over Italy. **Verona** has a parade with over 500 floats. There are even Carnevale celebrations in the part of Calabria with Albanian settlements. of **Pollino in Castrovillari** and **Montalto Uffugo**. In the latter there is a "wedding parade" with men in women's dresses. **Putignano**, in Puglia, features its traditional clown Farinella and, as part of its festival, actors recite verse in dialect regarding current events and the town's prominent citizens. Carnevale is celebrated in many other places in southern Italy. One can find web sites representing at least three celebrations in Puglia, two in Basilicata, twelve in Campania, three in Calabria, and three more in Sicily, and this is hardly a comprehensive list.



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**Conferenza Stampa dell' Ministro Franco Frattini**  
di Paolo Vidoli 25 gennaio 2010

Oggi il Ministro degli Esteri italiano, Onorevole Franco Frattini, al termine di un incontro con il Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, ha tenuto una conferenza presso la Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies della John Hopkins University spiegando al numeroso pubblico intervenuto la posizione e le iniziative prese dall'Italia sui punti nevralgici della situazione internazionale. Il ministro ha parlato in particolare della posizione italiana sull'Iran, Afganistan, Yemen e Somalia dove, in cooperazione con i paesi europei e gli Stati Uniti, l'Italia ha partecipato sia fornendo forze armate sia aiutando i paesi devastati dalle guerre a riorganizzare le proprie amministrazioni civili tramite corsi di aggiornamento rivolti sia alle forze locali di polizia ►►►

***Ai nostri lettori: Questo saggio e' un lavoro di uno studente in un corso avanzato di Camilla Presti Russell dell' Italian Language Program***

**GIORGIO MORANDI**

*di Audrey Haber*

Giorgio Morandi e' nato il 20 luglio nell'anno 1890 a Bologna. E' stato uno dei protagonisti della pittura italiana del Novecento ed e' considerato tra i maggiori pittori mondiali del secolo. Con la madre e le tre sorelle Anna, Dina e Teresa e' vissuto in Via Fondazza a Bologna. Nell'appartamento, aveva una piccola camera da letto e uno studio dove dipingeva. Fin da ragazzo ha dimostrato una grande passione per l'arte figurativa convincendo i genitori a permettergli di iscriversi all'Accademia di Belle Arti di Bologna.



Fin dalla sua gioventu' ha ammirato lo stile di Cezanne. Nei paesaggi della zona Emiliana ha usato i colori nel modo di Cezanne. Nell' anno 1901 ha viaggiato per la prima volta a Firenze dove ha visto le opere di Giotto. Piu' tardi, ha visto le opere di Caravaggio quando e' passato per Roma. Da lui, ha imparato a dare corposita' alle sue opere. A Urbino ha conosciuto l'arte del gran

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che alle amministrazioni stesse, pesantemente penalizzate dalla corruzione. Nel caso dell'Iran, con il quale paese l'Italia ha una lunga storia di collaborazione, i contatti diretti hannopermesso di mantenere aperto un canale per cercare di convincere le forze politiche locali di cancellare il programma nucleare bellico. In particolare, il ministro ha sottolineato come sia importante la partecipazione e la collaborazione di tutti i paesi del medio oriente nella risoluzione delle divergence e dei conflitti tra le nazioni e la necessita' di un fronte comune contro il terrorismo.

Numerosi studenti hanno partecipato all'incontro chiedendo al ministro precisazioni su alcuni aspetti della politica italiana in queste aree, e numerosi rappresentativi della stampa. Per l'ICS erano presenti Maria, Romeo e Paolo.

***To our readers: This essay is the work of a student in an advanced course of Camilla Presti Russell of the Italian Language Program***

**GIORGIO MORANDI**

*by Audrey Haber*



Giorgio Morandi was born on July 20, 1890 in Bologna. He was one of the leading figures of 20<sup>th</sup> century Italian painting and is considered among the greatest painters worldwide of the century. With his mother and three sisters, Anna, Dina, and Teresa he lived on Bologna's Via Fondazza. In the apartment he had a small bedroom and a studio where he painted. From when he was a boy he showed a great passion for figurative art, convincing his parents to permit him to enroll in the Accademia di Belle Arti of Bologna.

From the time of his youth he admired the style of Cezanne. In landscapes of the Emilia region he used color in the manner of Cezanne. In the year 1901 he traveled for the first time to Florence, where he viewed

pittore del Rinascimento, Piero della Francesca. Da lui, ha imparato a dare luce ai soggetti nelle sue opere. Tutti quanti questi pittori hanno fatto parte dello sviluppo artistico di questo pittore bolognese. Nell'anno 1914 a Bologna le sue opere sono state premiate ad una mostra dei pittori dello stile futuristico. Nell'anno 1918, si e' legato ai pittori della scuola metafisica come Giorgio de Chirico. Tutti e due infatti hanno catturato i soggetti quotidiani con un'aura misteriosa.

Nell'anno 1920 ha incominciato a dipingere figure nel modo realista nelle sue nature morte. Nello studio aveva tanti oggetti di cucina di varie misure che usava come fonte d'ispirazione. Questi oggetti sono diventati i protagonisti della scena. Usando colori poco brillanti come bianco, verde e marrone chiaro, Morandi ha dipinto oggetti abbastanza usuali: vasi, bottiglie, caffettiere, fiori e ciotole, composti sul piano di un tavolo. Questi erano oggetti di vetro o ceramica. La gran fama di Morandi e' legata alle sue nature morte e in particolare a questi vari tipi di bottiglie.

Dall'anno 1940 le nature morte sono diventate piu' commoventi. In una serie di opere artistiche dell'anno 1941, ha aggiunto conchiglie di mare alle nature morte, pensando che gli facevano ricordare il momento del bombardamento di Bologna durante la Seconda Guerra Mondiale.

Dall'anno 1950, ha dipinto meno oggetti e meno oggetti di proporzione grande. Lo stile e' diventato piu' astratto. Dall'anno 1930 al 1956 ha insegnato una classe d'arte grafica all'Accademia di Belle Arti a Bologna. Così ha ispirato tanti pittori grafici di Bologna.

Dall'anno 1992 si sono realizzate varie esposizioni delle opere di Morandi. Nel 1992 in Palazzo D'Accursio a Bologna e' sorto un Museo monografico dedicato a Morandi. Il sindaco di Bologna ha reso possibile la fondazione di quel museo. Grazie alla donazione di Maria Teresa, la sorella di Morandi, si sono espese



tante opere di Morandi al museo.

A Giorgio Morandi e' anche stata dedicata una mostra al Museo Metropolitan di New York nel dicembre 2008. La mostra ha contribuito alla fama a livello mondiale del gran pittore bolognese. C'erano un centinaio di nature morte accanto a una dozzina di paesaggi. L'anno scorso, ho partecipato ad una visita ad una mostra d'arte dedicata a Morandi al Museo Phillips di Washington. All'inizio della visita, la mostra mi ha annoiato perche' tutti i soggetti delle nature morte mi sembravano uguali. Alla seconda visita, mi sono resa conto di come fossero distinte l'una dall'altra.

the works of Giotto. Later he saw the works of Caravaggio when he passed through Rome. From him he learned to give weight to his paintings. In Urbino he became acquainted with the art of the great Renaissance painter Piero della Francesca. From him he learned to give light to the subjects of his works. All these painters formed part of the artistic development of this Bolognese painter. In 1914 his works won prizes in Bologna at an exhibition of painters of the futurist style. In the year 1918 he joined painters of the metaphysical school like Giorgio de Chirico. Both of them in fact captured every day subjects with a mysterious aura.

In the year 1929 he began to paint figures in the realist manner in his still life paintings. In his studio he had many kitchen objects of various sizes that he used as a source of inspiration. These objects became major participants of the scene. Using subdued colors like white, green, and light brown, Morandi painted fairly common objects: vases, bottles, coffee pots, flowers, and bowls placed on the surface of a table. These were glass or ceramic objects. Morandi's great fame was tied to his still life paintings, and in particular to these various types of bottles.

From 1940 the still life paintings became more exciting. In a series of artistic works in 1941 he added sea shells in the still life paintings, thinking that they reminded him of the bombardment of Bologna during the Second World War.



From the year 1950 on he painted fewer objects and fewer large scale objects. His style became more abstract. From 1930 to 1956 he taught a class in graphic art at the Accademia di Belle Arti in Bologna. Thus he inspired many graphic painters of Bologna.

Since 1992 various exhibitions of the works of Morandi have taken place. In 1992 at the Palazzo D'Accursio in Bologna a museum of monographs dedicated to Morandi came was established. The mayor of Bologna made possible the foundation of that museum. Thanks to the donations of Maria Teresa, Morandi's sister, many of Morandi's works have been shown there.

A show dedicated to Giorgio Morandi was also held at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York in December of 2008. That show contributed to the great ascent to worldwide acclaim of the great Bolognese painter. There were about one hundred still life paintings, along with a dozen landscapes. Last year I took part in a visit to a show dedicated to Morandi at the

Per me, Morandi era un gran artista . Anche per il nostro presidente. Due quadri ad olio di Morandi sono stati scelti da Barack Obama e adesso fanno parte della collezione della Casa Bianca.

Morandi, durante gli ultimi giorni della sua vita, stava coricato nel suo letto nello stesso appartamento che condivideva con le sorelle dal 1909 quando e' morto suo padre. E' morto il 18 giugno nell'anno 1964 a Bologna dopo una degenza di un mese. E' sepolto nella Certosa di Bologna nella tomba di famiglia dove giace insieme alle tre sorelle.

### 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:

Lenore Rubino & T. Patterson Clark, Jess Joswick  
Mike and Susan Hutsell, Carla Guglielmino, Arnold Berke  
Mary Allison Reilly, Alicia Pommering, Joan Danziger  
Jill Rutten, Tamara Hardikar, Jane Dell' Amore  
James Russo, Lee Samuelson, Lynne Rychlec  
Stanley Pietrusiak

*Benvenuti !*

*Cesarina Horing, Membership Chair*



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Phillips Museum in Washington. At the start of my visit I was annoyed by the show because all the subjects of the still life paintings seemed to me to be the same. On my second visit I realized how different they were from each other.

For me, Morandi was a great artist, and also for our president. Two oil paintings by Morandi were chosen by Barack Obama and now are part of the White House collection.

Morandi spent his last days lying on his bed in the same apartment that he shared with his sisters since 1909 when his father died. Morandi died on June 18, 1964 in Bologna after a month long stay in the hospital. He is buried in the Certosa di Bologna in the family tomb where he lies with his three sisters.



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Please send submissions via the Internet to e-mail address:  
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We have fewer than 25% of your email addresses. Getting the word out in a timely manner about ICS events is much more effective using email. If you have not been receiving notices when the Poche Parole is posted on the ICS website, please send your email address to [icspoparole@verizon.net](mailto:icspoparole@verizon.net). Also let us know whether you are willing to stop receiving the print edition of Poche Parole since it is also available (in color) on our website. This would save about \$1.50 per issue, money that can be put toward more scholarships.

### **SAN GIMIGNANO'S MAYOR AND GOOD NEIGHBORS RALLY TO OUR AID**

*(Another in an occasional series of articles from San  
Gimignano by ICS member Don McPherson)*

Because Italy is renowned for its beauty, affluence and friendliness, and is within easy reach of many poor countries, it is the target for endless hordes of people with few resources, seeking a more prosperous life and refuge from war and tyranny. Fortunately for them, Italians are a benevolent people that accepts tens of thousands of illegal immigrants annually. However, the questura - which controls immigration and naturalization - has established stringent requirements to ensure that legal immigrants have reasonable means to support themselves. Unfortunately this means that I must negotiate with the questura section of the police headquarters every year.

I am required to carry a valid 'Permission to Stay' (Permesso), which means that every two years I must turn in my expiring Permesso, submit proof of my financial worth, annual income, health insurance and nationality, copies of valid Italian residency and identity cards and numerous passport photographs. Since my Permesso expires in March, rules state that I must apply for renewal in February - a month when I am not normally present.

### **IL SINDACO DI SAN GIMIGNANO E I NOSTRI BUONI AMICI VENGONO AD AIUTARCI**

*(Un altro in una serie di articoli da San Gimignano del  
socio ICS Don McPherson)*

L' Italia, nota per la sua bellezza, la sua ricchezza e per il suo calore umano, vicina a molte nazioni povere, e' la meta di multitudini di persone di poche risorse che cercano una vita piu' prospera e un riparo dalle guerre e dalle tirannie. Per fortuna gli italiani sono un popolo benevolo che accoglie ogni anno decine di migliaia di immigrati. La Questura, che regola l' immigrazione e la naturalizzazione, ha pero' stabilito stretti criteri per assicurarsi che gli immigranti legali abbiano adeguati mezzi di sostentamento. Sfortunatamente, questo significa che ogni anno io devo discutere con la Questura.

Io devo avere sempre con me un valido "Permesso di Soggiorno", che vuol dire che ogni due anni devo consegnare il mio Permesso scaduto, presentare prova della mia situazione finanziaria, del mio reddito annuale, della mia copertura sanitaria e della mia nazionalita', copia valida del certificato di residenza e della carta di identita' italiane, e numerose foto formato passaporto. Siccome il mio Permesso scade in marzo, i regolamenti prevedono che io debba richiedere il rinnovo in febbraio - un mese in cui normalmente non sono presente. Di conseguenza,



**San Gimignano**

Consequently, during the one full year in which my Permesso is valid, I must negotiate with the questura for special dispensation to be allowed to submit my application earlier if it is to be considered valid in March of the following year. Each year until 2008 I pleaded unsuccessfully for a change in this inconvenient date. Instead I was required to submit a written explanation for early application to the questura in nearby Poggibonsi. That year when I called for an appointment to bring in the usual documentation for the 2009 renewal of my Permesso, the bright voice of Nadia announced the welcome news that there was no need because: "Full questura responsibilities have now been transferred to our offices from our Provincial capital, Siena! So simply call for an appointment on your return in 2009", (meaning after my Permesso expired!) "then I will personally look after your Permesso renewal. Furthermore, since your wife is an Italian citizen, I will see that you are issued a Carta di Soggiorno which will be valid for five years - possibly ten!"

Exhilarated by this relief from the demands of the questura, I did as Nadia said and on our return last July, I rang for an appointment. "Unfortunately", she replied, "all questura responsibilities have been withdrawn from Poggibonsi. I am sorry, but you must again apply to Siena. Furthermore you must also submit to them evidence of your marriage to Silvia." Readers of Poche Parole with good memories may recall that I had spent the chilly winter of 2004-5 in Italy obtaining and submitting this marriage evidence to the Siena questura, only to have my application for a Carta di Soggiorno – for which it truly is required - rejected on the grounds that Silvia received no pension from Italy – which had never been mentioned as a requirement. Furthermore, the requirement of marriage to an Italian is not stated among the questura's requirements for a Permesso. Perhaps most disheartening of all, the Siena questura had taken from me our original marriage documents in 2004 and they are unable to retrieve documents. The odds of success had grown dismally small.

**Continued in the next issue**

durante l'anno nel quale il mio permesso non scade, devo richiedere alla Questura, un permesso speciale per poter presentare i documenti in anticipo affinché la mia domanda sia considerata valida per il marzo dell' anno seguente. Ogni anno fino al 2008 ho perorato, senza successo, il cambio di questa data scomoda. Invece, ho dovuto presentare alla Questura della vicina Poggibonsi una spiegazione scritta per la richiesta anticipata. Quell'anno, quando telefonai per un appuntamento per consegnare i soliti documenti per rinnovare il mio Permesso per il 2009, la voce allegra di Nadia diede la gradita notizia che questo non era necessario perché "Tutte le funzioni della Questura ora sono state trasferite da Siena, capitale della provincia, ai nostri uffici! Quindi, basta semplicemente che prenda un appuntamento al suo ritorno nel 2009" (cioè dopo la scadenza del mio Permesso) "poi mi occuperò io del rinnovo del Permesso. In più dato che sua moglie è cittadina, le farò avere una Carta di Soggiorno che sarà valida per cinque – forse anche per dieci anni!"



**Poggibonsi**

Rallegrato da questa facilitazione per le pratiche (esenzione dalle domande) della Questura, ho fatto come ha detto Nadia e al nostro ritorno lo scorso luglio ho telefonato per un appuntamento. "Sfortunatamente", ha risposto Nadia, "tutte le responsabilità della Questura sono state ritirate da Poggibonsi. Mi dispiace, ma deve sempre presentare la sua richiesta a Siena. In più deve anche presentare prova del suo matrimonio con Silvia". I lettori di Poche Parole con buona memoria forse ricorderanno che io ho passato l' inverno frigido del 2004-5 in Italia per ottenere e consegnare prova del mio matrimonio alla Questura di Siena per poi vedere rifiutata la mia richiesta della Carta di Soggiorno (per la quale quel documento è veramente necessario) perché Silvia non riceveva una pensione dall' Italia – una condizione che non è mai stato detto fosse necessaria. Inoltre il matrimonio con un' italiana non era mai stato dichiarato come necessario per ottenere il Permesso. Forse più scoraggiante di tutto è che la Questura di Siena aveva preso nel 2004 i nostri certificati di matrimonio originali, e non li possono più trovare. La probabilità di successo era diventata tristemente piccola. **Continua nel prossimo numero**



\*\*\*\*\*EMBASSY PRESS RELEASE\*\*\*\*\*

### **ITALY OFFERS \$500,000 TO SAVE AP EXAM**

The Government of Italy has authorized the allocation of US\$500,000.00 in support of maintaining the *Advanced Placement Program in Italian Language and Culture*. It was made possible through the direct efforts in Italy by the Prime Minister's Office and by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the support of the Embassy of Italy in Washington. Major Italian American organizations also lent significant support to the effort.

The decision confirms the priority assigned by the Government of Italy to the Advanced Placement program of the American College Board, which has been identified as indispensable to the diffusion of appropriate level Italian language courses in U.S. schools. In fact, for a foreign language, being included among the 35 AP subjects, it is a factor of continuity, diligence, and coherence in curricula from preschool to university. Inclusion in the AP is incentivizing to prospective students and to the high schools themselves.

The Embassy of Italy is strongly appreciative for and commends the commitment undertaken by the Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations through the creation of an ad hoc committee tasked with supporting the Government's action through both raising additional funds and a campaign aimed at gathering a critical mass of students to enroll in the program.

In view of the program's reinstatement, direct contacts at the highest level between the Embassy of Italy in partnership with the Conference of Presidents and the College Board have already been activated and will continue in the coming weeks.

### **Consul Cristiano Maggipinto Appointed First Counselor**

Consul Cristiano Maggipinto took over as First Counselor at the Embassy of Italy in Washington in October, 2009.



Counselor Maggipinto, a graduate in political science at the University of Florence, began his diplomatic career in 1989 and was successively assigned to the General Directorate for Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where he worked first on economic relations with the U.S. and

then on negotiations of the Maastricht Treaty, which gave rise to the European Union. In 1993, he took on the assignment of First Counselor for Economic Affairs at the Embassy of Italy in Tel Aviv. In 1997 he was transferred to Germany with responsibility for the section on immigration and social matters, first in Bonn, and then in Berlin after the transfer of the Embassy to the latter city. In January, 2001 he returned to Rome, to the Directorate General for Italians Abroad and Migration Policy, where he was Chief of the Secretariat of the Director General. On January 30, 2006 he became officially the Consul General at the Italian Consulate General in Houston. He has been First Counselor at the Embassy of Italy since October, 2009. The Italian Cultural Society welcomes First Counselor Maggipinto to Washington.

### **INAUGURAZIONE DELLA NUOVA SEDE DELL' ITALIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM.**

Il Primo Consigliere dell'Ambasciata d'Italia, Cristiano Maggipinto ha inaugurato la nuova sede dell'Italian Language Program of The Italian Cultural Society. La cerimonia del taglio del nastro si e' svolta venerdi', 8 gennaio quale buon augurio anche per la nuova sessione invernale dei corsi di lingua e cultura italiana.



Il Consigliere Maggipinto nel corso del suo saluto ha confermato l'impegno del Governo Italiano e dell'Ambasciata per la promozione della lingua e cultura italiana nelle scuole pubbliche e private, impegno che in queste ultime settimane si e' concentrato sul ripristino dell'esame

Advanced Placement in italiano. Infatti il Governo Italiano ha stanziato \$500,000.00 affinché l'AP venga offerto già nell'anno scolastico 2010-2011. Erano presenti alla cerimonia molti di coloro che hanno contribuito così egregiamente al successo dell'Italian Language Program: L'Emerita Direttrice Maria Wilmeth, il "gruppo" del Seminario NEH, Prof. Roberto Severino, Prof. Luigi De Sanctis e il Prof. Luigi De Luca, il Prof. Joseph Lupo, Past President del Copilas e il Dott. Pino Cicala, fondatore del Programma insieme alla Dott.ssa Wilmeth. Erano presenti anche alcuni insegnanti delle scuole della Circoscrizione Consolare e gli insegnanti dei corsi per adulti dell'ILP. Il Consigliere Maggipinto si e' intrattenuto con gli insegnanti interessandosi alle loro attività e mettendosi a loro disposizione per ogni eventuale necessità.

### **Console Cristiano Maggipinto Nominato Primo Consigliere**

Il Console Cristiano Maggipinto, Primo Consigliere, ha preso servizio all'Ambasciata d'Italia a Washington nell'ottobre del 2009. Il Consigliere Maggipinto, laureato in Scienze Politiche all'Università di Firenze, inizia la sua carriera diplomatica nel 1989 e viene successivamente assegnato alla Direzione Generale per gli Affari Economici del Ministero degli Affari Esteri, dove si occupa prima di relazioni economiche con gli Stati Uniti poi dei negoziati del Trattato di Maastricht che dà origine all'Unione Europea. Nel 1993 assume l'incarico di Primo Consigliere per gli Affari Economici all'Ambasciata d'Italia a Tel Aviv. Nel 1997 viene trasferito in Germania come responsabile della sezione per l'emigrazione e gli affari sociali prima a Bonn poi a Berlino, a seguito del trasferimento dell'Ambasciata in quest'ultima città. Nel gennaio 2001 torna a Roma alla Direzione Generale per gli Italiani all'Estero e Politiche Migratorie, dove svolge le funzioni di Capo della Segreteria del Direttore Generale. Il 30 gennaio 2006 assume ufficialmente la carica di Console Generale presso il Consolato Generale d'Italia a Houston. E' Primo Consigliere presso l'Ambasciata d'Italia dall'ottobre 2009. La Italian Cultural Society accoglie cordialmente il Consigliere Maggipinto a Washington.

**OUTSIDE EVENTS COMMITTEE**  
**Members Working on Your Behalf**  
by Nick Monaco, Chair

You may recall that in early 2009, ICS Members were requested by the ICS Board to participate in a survey. The primary purposes of the Survey were: to seek member suggestions regarding ICS programs and events in order to help the Society grow and make it more meaningful to the Members; and, to invite the general membership to become more involved in the operation of our Society.

A significant outcome of the survey was the many thoughtful suggestions for ICS to organize and sponsor events outside of the monthly Social programs. Even more impressive were the over 20 ICS Members who volunteered to help plan and organize outside events. In response to the suggestions and volunteers, the ICS Board established the Outside Events Committee (OEC) and appointed me as Chair. At the OEC's inaugural meeting in September, the volunteers were presented with following objectives for the three Subcommittees:

**Local:** Plan at least one cena night (evening dinner) and one local day event during the period November 2009 to November 2010.

**Overnight:** Plan at least one event, which would include at least one overnight stay out of town, during the period November 2009 to December 2010.

**Foreign Travel:** Planning one overseas event during the period January 2010 to June 2011.

The volunteers then organized themselves into the three Subcommittees based on their interest and selected their respective Chairs; Local: Sharinna Sarmiento; Overnight: John Kelly; and Foreign Travel: Adele Baker. These subcommittees are now actively developing event options and I believe that the ICS membership will be pleased with results of their planning. The first of the ICS outside events was the very successful bus trip to Baltimore's Inner Harbor, to tour the Da Vinci exhibit as described in the President's message and illustrated in the pictures in this issue. Any ICS Member who would like to suggest an event and/or is interested in joining one of the OEC's Sub-committees is welcome to contact me at: [monaco1957@aol.com](mailto:monaco1957@aol.com) or 301-963-6584.



We are flying in a Da Vinci machine  
and our luggage flies free on Air Leonardo!!

## ITALIAN GOURMET MARKET

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**\*Torrone \* Perugina Chocolates\***

\*\*\*\*\*

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**(except for beer wine, and other**  
**beverages)**

### LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

#### Holy Rosary Church:

**Carnevale Celebration**, Saturday, Feb. 13, 6-10 PM, co-sponsored by Lucchesi nel Mondo. Dinner, dancing, games, prizes. At Casa Italiana \$45, members \$50 non members.

**Italian Immigration: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow**, Sunday, 28 February, 1 PM. Program begins with the documentary *Pane Amaro* and is followed by a round table discussion. Open to the Public. At Casa Italiana.

**Italian Cultural Institute:** Venetian Magnificence and Beneficence: Scuole Great and Small. Eric Denker discusses the Venetian *Scuole*, charitable institutions started in the 14th century, many having evolved into patrons of the arts. Wednesday, Feb. 10, 6:30 PM at 3000 Whitehaven St. NW, Washington DC.

**Washington DC Italian Language & Culture Meetup Group:** Social Gatherings every Monday & Friday at Vapiano Restaurant. See [www.meetup.com/Dcitalian](http://www.meetup.com/Dcitalian)



# MORE PICTURES FROM THE VISIT TO THE DA VINCI EXHIBIT



Fa un po' freddo ma.....



.....ci riscaldiamo con la scienza



Questo vino e' buono quasi come quelli venezuelani e peruviani



Il riso nasce nell' acqua e muore nel vino



Hmmm..... giocattoli per i miei nipotini ???



No Comment !!!



# ICS membership application

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

## Mail application to:

c/o ICS Treasurer  
 4827 Rugby Avenue  
 Suite #301  
 Bethesda, MD 20814

## Please make check payable to:

The Italian Cultural Society

## Type of membership

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single             | \$ 35.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family             | \$ 50.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student, full time | \$ 20.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Platinum Sponsor   | \$ 1,000  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gold Sponsor       | \$ 500.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silver Sponsor     | \$ 250.00 |

## Interest group

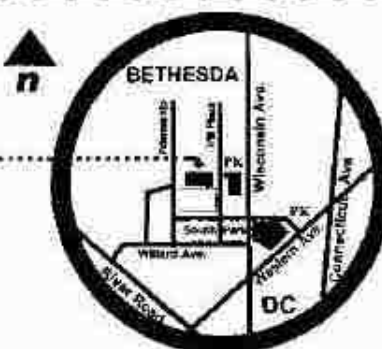
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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Theater            | <input type="checkbox"/> Incontn a cena  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Literature         | <input type="checkbox"/> Conversation    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Opera              | <input type="checkbox"/> Travelling      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 20-40s             | <input type="checkbox"/> Dancing         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children (3-13)    | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural progr. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Museums            | <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor activities |  |

Please mark the group you are interested in

## meeting location

### friendship heights village center

4433 South Park Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815



the italian cultural society  
 of washington, dc., inc.

(202) 333-CIAO

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

4827 Rugby Avenue, Suite #301  
 Bethesda, MD 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.

