president's message

The dolci were sweet, the conversation was congenial and participatory, and we all enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon, even though we were missing our pastry cook and his demonstration. These things happen. October has many things in store for us. At 7pm on Wednesday, October 5 you can attend a free concert of a capella choral music by the Coro Brigata Julia Alpina Congedati from the Julian alpine regions of Italy at Casa Italiana. The following Sunday, Oct. 9th please come to Festa Italiana starting at 11:30am at the same venue which will be a lot of fun. Your society is selling homemade pasta, our ICS cookbook, and the handsome tee-shirts of original design that celebrate Italy @ 150 as well as a newly designed totebag and even soccer balls from Italy! In this same issue, Arrigo Mongini tells you more about our ICS project to record the memories of immigrants ranging in age from early 30’s to 91, which will also be part of the Festa. At our October 16 social meeting we will have Prof. Deborah Warin to tell us about “The Renaissance Court of Urbino”. If any of you have been to Urbino, you know what a beautiful place it is and what a fascinating history it has. There is more about Prof. Warin on p.8 of this issue. Finally, on Thursday, Oct. 20, at 7pm at the Embassy of Italy, the ICS has partnered with our Abruzzo Molise Heritage Society friends, the Embassy, and the Institute of Classical Architecture and Classical America to present a lecture by American and world Palladio expert, Dr. Calder Loth on “Palladio and the American Architectural Image”. You will find more information about this elegant event on p. 11. We are pleased to be able to bring you such a wealth of Italian cultural activities.

Ron Cappelletti, president

ics events

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ITALIAN LESSONS on October 16 at 2:00 PM

Movie of the Month: “Mamma Roma”, with Anna Magnani 1:00 PM (See page 9)

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FESTA ITALIANA
Sunday, October 9, 2011 • 11:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Celebrating the history of Italian Unification and Immigration to America

BENVENUTI!

3rd Street, NW at F St, in front of Holy Rosary Church
Nearest METRO: Judiciary Square
Sponsored by Festa Italiana Foundation of Washington, DC, Inc.

www.festaitalianadc.com
Poche Parole is published each month from January through May and September through December. The deadline for the submission of all articles and ads for a newsletter issue is the 25th of the month preceding publication of the issue. Please send submissions via the Internet to e-mail address: icspoparole@verizon.net or on a computer diskette/CD to:

Editor, Poche Parole
4827 Rugby Avenue, Suite 301
Bethesda, MD 20814

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Girolamo Cardano, matematico e medico italiano nacque a Pavia nel 1501. Suo padre, Fazio Cardano, jurista milanese lo incoraggiò a studiare la matematica, essendo egli stesso un matematico dilettante. Girolamo seguì gli studi universitari all'università di Pavia e successivamente a quella di Padova, dove si laureò in medicina. Poiché era figlio illegittimo fu escluso dal collegio dei medici a Milano.

Avendo avuto fortuna nella cura del figlio del senatore milanese Sfondrato, grazie al senatore Cardano fu ammesso al corpo medico. Nel 1539 Cardano pubblicò il suo *Generalis arithmeticae Practica*, un lavoro di grande merito che lo fece conoscere ai matematici contemporanei. Di conseguenza egli cominciò a corrispondere, a partire dal 1539, con Niccolo Tartaglia, matematico altrettanto famoso, che aveva scoperto una soluzione delle equazioni cubiche. Tartaglia si tenne per sé questa scoperta, ma infine la comunicò a Cardano, con la promessa solenne che non dovesse essere mai divulgata. Cardano, tuttavia, la pubblicò nel suo trattato d'algebra (*Artis magna, sive de regulis algebraicis*) pubblicato a Norimberga nel 1545. Per 6 anni, Cardano si dedicò a risolvere le equazioni cubiche e quartiche.

Uno dei primi problemi di cui si occupò fu la formula delle radici quadrate dei numeri negativi e fece i primi calcoli con i numeri complessi. Nel 1545 pubblicò il suo lavoro matematico più notevole: *Ars Magna*. In esso diede i metodi per la soluzione dell'equazione cubica e quartica. Infatti, aveva scoperto nel 1543 che Tartaglia non era stato il primo a risolvere l'equazione cubica e quindi ritenne di poter pubblicare la scoperta malgrado il suo giuramento a Tartaglia. Nel 1547 fu nominato professore di medicina a Pavia. La pubblicazione del suo lavoro sull'algebra lo rese celebre a livello europeo ed ottenne delle offerte lusinghiere da Papa Paul III ed dal re di Danimarca, che lui rifiutò. Nel 1551 la sua reputazione si accrebbe con la pubblicazione del suo grande lavoro, *De Subtilitate Rerum*, che fu il più logico trattato di fisica del suo tempo.

Cardano inventò diversi dispositivi meccanici, tra cui la serratura a combinazione, il famoso albero cardanico con giunti cardanici, che consente la trasmissione del moto rotatorio a vari angoli ed è usato nei veicoli anche ai giorni nostri. Egli contribuì allo studio dell'idrodinamica e sostenne che il moto perpetuo e' impossibile, tranne che nei corpi celesti.

Qualche anno più tardi Cardano pubblicò un trattato, *De Varietate Rerum* (1557), simile al *De Subtilitate Rerum*. I due trattati in effetti costituiscono un solo libro. Una gran parte
del De Varietate tenta di spiegare i fenomeni naturali ordinari, ma il principale interesse per noi è costituito nei suggerimenti e nei tentativi di illustrare dei principi che egli stesso non era in grado di capire, forse perché i tempi non erano maturi per una tale comprensione. Per lui il regno inorganico della natura era animato non meno di quello organico; tutta la creazione è uno sviluppo progressivo; tutti gli animali erano originalmente dei vermi; i metalli inferiori devono considerarsi conatus naturae verso la produzione dell’oro. La variabilità infinita delle specie è implicita nell’osservazione che la natura è raramente soddisfatta da una singola mutazione. Le abitudini ovipare degli uccelli sono spiegate dalla loro tendenza di favorire il perpetuare della specie, anticipando le teorie dei naturalisti moderni. L’origine della vita dipende dalle leggi cosmiche, che Cardano collega naturalmente con il suo studio favorito sull’astrologia. Le divergenze fisiche delle razze umane risultano dagli effetti del clima e dalle circostanze ambientali. Nel complesso, il suo trattato, benché sia debole in alcuni particolari, è notevole nel formulare l’unità e la validità delle leggi naturali, il che lo rende in un certo senso precursor delle teorie scientifiche dei nostri giorni.

Cardano fece importanti contributi al calcolo delle probabilità, una competenza che gli servi bene perché era un giocatore inveterato. Il suo libro sui giochi d’azzardo Liber de ludo aleae, scritto nel 1526 ma pubblicato soltanto nel 1663, contiene il primo trattamento sistematico del calcolo delle probabilità, come pure una sezione sui metodi efficaci per barare. Cardano poteva integrare il suo reddito con il gioco d’azzardo ma gli fece conoscere dei brutti caratteri. Una volta, quando sospettò che era vittima d’un inganno, Cardano, che era sempre munito di un coltello, sfregio la faccia di un suo avversario. Il gioco diventò una passione che duro molti anni e che gli costò tempo prezioso ed il suo buon nome.

Nel 1570, Cardano fu messo in prigione, accusato di eresia avendo pubblicato l’oroscopo di Gesù Cristo. Fu rilasciato alcuni mesi dopo, ma gli fu proibito di tenere lezioni all’università e di pubblicare il suo futuro lavoro.

Girolamo Cardano si spense nel 1576.

Cardano also made important contributions to probability theory, a competence that came in handy for him because he was an habitual gambler. His book about games of chance, Liber de ludo aleae (“Book on Games of Chance”), written in 1526, but not published until 1663, contains the first systematic treatment of probability, as well as a section on effective cheating methods. Cardano was able to supplement his income through gambling, but it brought him in contact with some unsavory characters. Once, when he thought he was being cheated at cards, Cardano, who always carried a knife, slashed the face of his opponent. Gambling became an addiction that was to last many years and rob Cardan of valuable time reputation.

In 1570, Cardano was put in prison, accused of heresy, having published the horoscope of Jesus Christ. He was released several months later, but he was prohibited from giving lessons at the university and from publishing his future work.

Girolamo Cardano died in 1576.
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:

Anna Maria Adamo, Adriana Amaro, Bruno Damiani
Lyn Ferrara and Ben Crain, Adriana Carioti, Diane Eppinger
Conrad and Anita Clark, Kate Essex, Danielle Godjikian,
Sergio Govoni, Tommaso Immediato, Mary Leadbeater,
Dora Leo, Renee Licht, Emily Miller, Clare O’Callagan,
Melody Musete and Paul Kelly, Gabriella Pruitt,
Joseph John Romano, Lisandra Santos, Stefania Scandizzo,
Salvatore Talbi, Caterina Tassone, Joan Whalen,

Bienvenuti! Cesarina Horing, Membership Chair

ITALIAN LEADERS OF THE 19th CENTURY U.S. MARINE BAND (the second of two parts)
by Luciano Mangiafico

The September issue of Poche Parole gave a short history of the early years of the U.S. Marine Band around the turn of the 19th century and told how Marine Commandant William Ward Burrows, possibly at the suggestion of President Thomas Jefferson, sent Captain John Hall to Italy to recruit musicians and how the recruits sailed back to the US via Tripoli where the Marines blockaded the port in the war with the Barbary pirates.

Meantime back in Washington, the Marine Corps, following the 1804 resignation of Burrows because of ill health, had a new commandant, Lt. Colonel Franklin Wharton (1767-1818). Wharton soon received a letter from captain Hall advising him that he was on his way back with the Italian musicians and that he had promised their leader, Gaetano Carusi, an enlistment bonus of $50, and a bonus of $10 each to the other musicians. He also had committed the Corps to provide rations for the wives and children of the adult musicians and had purchased in Italy "fine musical instruments" at the Corps expense.

Wharton, who knew nothing about the matter and whose budget was tight, had a royal fit and promptly wrote back to Hall that he was not willing to comply with the commitments the captain had made, but the letter did not reach Hall, who was already at sea, and the group arrived at the Navy Yard in Washington on September 19, 1805.

Upon arrival, Captain Hall was disciplined for exceeding his instructions, but the group of musicians and their families were accommodated in the barracks at 8th & I, SE, the adult musicians made into Marines, and the young players enlisted as trainees.

Carusi, and no doubt others in the group, did not find life in still semi-rural Washington to their liking. Carusi in a letter said that they had "arrived in a desert, in fact a place containing some two or three taverns, with a few scattered cottages or log huts, called the City of Washington."
The Italians did not speak English, were subject to military discipline, and their women were often ordered to perform menial duties. Wharton still refused to pay them the moneys promised by Captain Hall and continued to harass them until about half of them, including Carusi and his family, decided to return to Italy, and accepted discharge from the Marine Corps on August 15, 1806.

It took a while to arrange passage back home and in June 1807, the group returning to Italy traveled to Norfolk, Virginia, and embarked on the USS Chesapeake, then under the command of Commodore James Barron (1768-1851), which was returning to the Mediterranean to fight pirates. Marine Captain John Hall was again on the vessel in charge of the Marine contingent.

While still in US territorial waters off Norfolk, the Chesapeake was stopped by the HMS Leopard, whose captain demanded to search it for English deserters. When Barron refused, the Leopard started firing broadsides, killing three aboard and injuring 18 aboard the Chesapeake. The Americans, who were not ready for the action, managed to fire one shot before giving up. The English then boarded the Chesapeake and took four sailors who had deserted from the English navy.

The Chesapeake was then allowed to return to Norfolk to effect repairs before sailing again under a different captain and the Italians were for a while stuck in Norfolk. Commodore Barron, Captain Hall, and two other officers were then court-marshaled and on February 8, 1808 Barron was found guilty of not preparing the ship for possible action, and suspended from the Navy without pay for 5 years. In March 1820, back on duty, Barron challenged to a duel and killed Commodore Stephen Decatur (1779-1820), one of the heroes of the Barbary Wars and the War of 1812 and the author of the motto “My country, right or wrong.” who had been a member of the court-marshal convicting him.

Bandleader Gaetano Carusi apparently never returned to Sicily. He worked for a while as conductor of a Baltimore circus, then opened a music store in Philadelphia, and finally returned to Washington where with his son Samuel he ran a music store. He kept petitioning the US Government for funds to return to Italy, but died here in 1843. Both he and his wife, Filippa, who died in 1846, are buried in the Congressional Cemetery.

One of his sons, Luigi (Lewis) founded Washington premiere dancing school with its large restaurant – dancing hall, where the IRS building on Pennsylvania Avenue is now. The hall was inaugurated in 1822 and used for many of the Presidential inaugural balls, starting with that of President John Quincy Adams in 1825. Lewis Carusi died in 1872.

Two other sons of Gaetano Carusi, Samuele (died 1877) and Ignazio (Nathaniele-died 1877) were also in the music store and teaching business, with facilities in both Baltimore and Washington.

In 1845, Samuel Carusi was involved as a defendant in a famous copyright case, which was decided in a jury trial in the Circuit Court of Maryland presided by US Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger B. Taney (1777-1864). The case dealt with the infringement of copyright of the musical score of the compenso promesso dal Capitano Hall e continuò a tormentarli finché' circa meta' di essi, compreso Carusi e la sua famiglia, decisero di rientrare in Italia e accettarono di essere congedati dal Corpo dei Marines il 15 agosto 1806.

Passò' parecchio tempo prima che potessero organizzare il viaggio di ritorno e il gruppo che decise di tornare in Italia andò' a Norfolk, VA, nel giugno 1807 e si imbarcò' sulla USS Chesapeake che stava ritornando nel Mediterraneo per combattere i pirati, sotto il comando del Comodoro James Barron (1768-1851). Il Capitano dei Marines John Hall era anche lui nuovamente a bordo al comando del contingente dei Marines.

Quando erano ancora nelle acque territoriali americane al largo di Norfolk, la Chesapeake fu fermata dalla nave inglese Leopard il cui capitanato pretese di perquisirla alla ricerca di disertori inglesi. Quando Barron si rifiutò la Leopard iniziò' delle bordate uccidendo tre e ferendo 18 a bordo della Chesapeake. Gli americani, che non erano pronti per l'azione, riuscirono a sparare solo un colpo prima di cedere. Gli inglesi quindi salirono a bordo e presero quattro marinai che avevano disertato dalla Marina inglese.

La Chesapeake fu lasciata rientrare a Norfolk per riparazioni prima di ripartire al comando di un altro capitano e gli italiani rimasero temporaneamente bloccati a Norfolk. Il Comodoro Barron, il Capitano Hall e altri due ufficiali furono citati in giudizio nel tribunale militare e l'otto febbraio 1808 Barron fu giudicato colpevole di aver approntato la nave per una possibile azione di guerra e sospeso dalla Marina per cinque anni senza paga. Rientrato in servizio, nel marzo1820 Barron sifi'do' a duello ed uccise il Comodoro Stephen Decatur (1779-1820), uno degli eroi delle guerre della Tripolitania e della guerra del 1812, e autore del motto “La mia patria, giusta o sbagliata”, che era stato un membro della corte marziale che lo aveva condannato.

Il direttore della banda, Carusi, non ritorno' mai piu' in Sicilia. Per un certo tempo lavorò' come direttore di musica in un circo di Baltimora, poi aprì' un negozio di musica in Pennsylvania ed infine rientro' a Washington dove lui e il figlio Samuele avevano un negozio di musica. Continuo' a chiedere al governo degli Stati Uniti i fondi per rientrare in Italia ma morì' in questo paese nel 1843. Lui e sua moglie Filippa, che morì' nel 1846, sono sepolti nel Cimitero del Congresso.

Uno dei suoi figli, Luigi (Lewis) fondo' una prestigiosa scuola di ballo che aveva un grande ristorante-sala-da ballo dove ora si trovano gli uffici dell'IRS in Pennsylvania Avenue. La sala fu inaugurata nel 1822 e usata per molti dei balli per l'inaugurazione del Presidente, iniziando con quello del Presidente John Quincy Adams nel 1825. Lewis Carusi morì' nel 1872.

Gli altri figli di Gaetano Carusi, Samuele (morte nel 1877) e Ignazio (Nataniele - morto nel 1877), erano anche loro coinvolti nei negozi di musica e nell'insegnamento della musica sia a Baltimora che a Washington.

Nel 1845 Samuele Carusi fu coinvolto come imputato in un famoso caso di diritti d'autore che fu deciso in un processo con giuria nel Tribunale Distrettuale del Maryland presieduto dal giudice superiore della Corte Suprema degli Stati Uniti Roger B. Taney (1777-1864). Il caso aveva a che fare con la violazione dei diritti d'autore della partitura della canzone
song The Old Arm Chair, which Carusi had set to music anew. He was fined $200, $100 damages to the plaintiff and $100 fine to the government, but this last was remitted by President James K. Polk (1795-1849), who knew the Carusi family.

In 1830, Samuel Carusi had married Adelaide Sofia McLean, the daughter of congressman, future Postmaster general, and Supreme Court Associate Justice John McLean (1785-1861). When his brother Lewis died in 1872, he left his estate to Samuel, with the proviso that if anything of his estate was still left at Samuel’s death, it should go to three nieces. When Samuel died in 1877 he left his estate to his wife and the nieces sued to recover part of uncle Lewis estate. The case wound up at the US Supreme Court in 1883-84 and was decided in favor of Samuel’s widow.

Another of Gaetano’s sons, Eugenio, founded the National University Law School, which later became part of George Washington University in the District of Columbia. His son, Charles Francis Carusi became the Chairman of the Washington Board of Education and Chancellor of the National University Law School. His grandson, also named Eugene Carusi (1905-87) was a graduate of the Naval Academy, and a prominent lawyer. On December 7, 1941, back on active duty, he was at Pearl Harbor during the Japanese attack and on June 6, 1944, D Day, he was wounded while in command of a Naval Beach Battalion at Omaha Beach.

“\begin{align*} The \text{ Old Arm Chair} \end{align*}\) of which Carusi had set to music anew. He was fined $200, $100 damages to the plaintiff and $100 fine to the government, but this last was remitted by President James K. Polk (1795 -1849) who knew the Carusi family.

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**OCTOBER 16 PROGRAM**

Our October 16 program will feature Deborah Warin speaking on “The Renaissance Court of Urbino”

Deborah Ross Warin is co-founder and director of The Renaissance Company. She has led more than thirty academic tours to Italy. In association with Georgetown University’s Charles Strong Center at Villa Le Balze in Fiesole, Deborah has introduced over 600 students and independent scholars to Italian Renaissance culture. During a sabbatical semester in Italy, she researched the life and patronage of Battista Sforza.

In addition to her faculty position at Georgetown University, Warin has held leadership posts in higher education as Director of Continuing Education at Georgetown, as Director of CREDIT at the American Council on Education, as assistant vice president of Trinity University in Washington, D.C., and as Expert Adviser to the European Council on Higher Education, Civil Responsibility and Democracy Initiative in Strasbourg, France. Deborah served as editorial advisor to the European Council’s recent publication *Advancing Democratic Practice: A Guide for Higher Education*.

Warin has lectured in a variety of academic settings in the United States and abroad. She and her husband, a philosophy professor and Dante scholar, reside in northern Virginia and in Umbria, Italy.

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**Preview of Ms. Warin’s Presentation**

**The Renaissance Court of Urbino**

The famous portraits of the Duke and Duchess of Urbino by Piero della Francesca have become icons of the Italian Renaissance. Yet the legacy of the Duke and Duchess extends far beyond these familiar images. Federico da Montefeltro and Battista Sforza were at the heart of what was regarded as the most brilliant court of their time – a court that reflected the apogee of artistic, intellectual, political and humanitarian values during the golden age we now call the Renaissance.

Their fairy tale like palace set high above the misty hills of the Marche, became the bastion of refinement, scholarship, fine arts, and just government inspiring masterpieces by Piero della Francesca, Laurana, Raphael, Bramante, Justus of Ghent as well as significant treatises by Pacioli, *De Divina Proporzione*, (illustrated by Leonardo da Vinci) and Piero’s *De Prospectiva Pingendi*. Everyone who was anyone spent time at the Montefeltro court including Leon Battista Alberti, Pope Pius II, Paolo Uccello, Botticelli, and Pedro Berruguete.

As a result of Baldassare Castiglione’s *Book of the Courtier*, for centuries Urbino became the standard reference for cultural refinement and just government. In Urbino could be found an intellectual elite which believed that an integrated and disciplined education would result in proper behavior and a proper sense of duty toward God and man.

See also picture at bottom of page 10
LA MAGNANI, “NANNARELLA”
by Joe Onofrietti

Would cinecittà want a woman so superstitious she consulted astrologers and numerologists? Could directors put up with a hypochondriac who often yells cut to check her temperature? Why does the Embassy of Italy hang a portrait in their luncheon room of this cigar smoking actress they affectionately call “Nannarella”? The answer is yes, because she is arguably the greatest Italian actress ever.

Born in 1908, Anna Magnani was an illegitimate child who never met her father. Her mother left her to be raised by her grandparents in a Roman ghetto. She went to school in a convent and became interested in acting by watching the nuns stage their Christmas play. She supported herself through Rome’s Academy of Dramatic Art by playing piano and singing in bars. In 1925, Magnani graduated and spent eight long years fighting for bit parts until director Goffredo Alessandrini discovered her in an experimental play. The two dated, married and the following year he gave her the role of Anna in La Cieca di Sorrento (1934). Both Luchino Visconti and Roberto Rossellini saw it and were so moved by her fiery, raw emotions that they started having her star in their films. Tennessee Williams wrote The Rose Tattoo (1955) specifically for her. She was nominated for best actress. Convinced that she would never win the Oscar, she did not attend the Academy Award Ceremony. When a reporter woke her out of a sound sleep in Rome to give her the good news she won, Anna Magnani responded “You’re lying. If this is a joke, I’ll kill you!” Fittingly, the last part she ever played was herself in Federico Fellini’s Roma (1972). The next year pancreatic cancer took her and she was laid to rest in the family mausoleum of Roberto Rossellini, her favorite director and longtime friend.

The Italian Cultural Society October film of the month is Mamma Roma (1962). Nastro d’Argento and Academy Award winner Anna Magnani is Mamma Garofolo in this tragic tale of a mother’s love and sacrifice for her son. One day Director Pier Paolo Pasolini spotted Ettore Garofolo waiting tables and convinced him to make a movie. Thus, a novice plays opposite a living legend in Mamma Roma. Italian with English subtitles

LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST
Columbus Day: Washington, DC honors and celebrates the achievements of Christopher Columbus with a national wreath laying ceremony on Columbus Day, on October 11, 2011 at 11 a.m. Embassies of Italy and Spain and the general public will lay wreaths at the base of the Columbus Memorial Statue located at Union Stationat Massachusetts Ave. & 1st St. The memorial is a large fountain with carvings of a native American, an elderly European, the figure of “Discovery” on the prow of a ship, and a globe.

Italian Cultural Institute: The three following events will be held at the Embassy of Italy, 3000 Whitehaven St. NW, Washington DC. All require photo ID and RSVP at http://www.iicwashington.esteri.it/IIC_Washington/Menu/Gli_Eventi/Calendario/

Regioni e Testimonianze d’Italia: Each Region of Italy will be showcased, in particular, through the works of art of one of its most important contemporary and modern artists. Tuesday, Oct. 4 at 5 PM.

Cineforum: “Io Sono L’ Amore” (I am Love), Wednesday, Oct 5 Doors close at 7:00 PM
A conversation with Sister Margherita Marchione on Filippo Mazzei, friend of Thomas Jefferson. Sr. Margherita wrote a book about Mazzei and his role in the American Revolution., Thursday, Oct. 6 at 6:30 PM.
Italian Itineraries for 2012!

Why not begin to look forward to your journey to Italy today?
The Renaissance Company, like the Italian Cultural Society of Washington, D.C., is dedicated to promoting deeper understanding and richer enjoyment of the Italian cultural heritage. To introduce ourselves to the ICS community, we are offering an exclusive 10% discount to members of the Society on our upcoming programs:

The Hilltowns of Tuscany, Umbria and Le Marche: May 28 – June 8, 2012
Venice, Ravenna, Verona and the Po Valley: June 11 – 22, 2012
The Renaissance in Florence: June 25 – July 2, 2012

More than 15 years of Experience
We are two scholar-educators with decades of experience in leading others through the hills of Tuscany, Umbria and the Marche. We have developed imaginative itineraries which provide exceptional opportunity to experience Italy in a way few travelers do, fully and meaningfully for oneself and in good company. We invite you to get to know us better by going to our website:

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CULTURAL ELEMENTS OF FESTA ITALIANA 2011
As most of you know by now, the theme of Festa Italiana this year is the Risorgimento and Italian Immigration to America over the Last 150 Years. Ron Cappelletti and I have put together several exhibits and presentations that will be shown at the Festa on this theme that are likely to interest ICS members.

1. Video of Risorgimento Songs, consisting of twelve mostly patriotic songs that were popular around the time of the Risorgimento, together with related images or video of the singers as well as short introductions for each song.

The songs include:

Va Pensiero, from an opera by Giuseppe Verdi said to be symbolic of the Italian people subjugated by Austria
L’ Inno di Garibaldi, which is really a call to arms
L’ Inno degli Studenti del 1848, commemorating a battle that resulted in the death of many university student volunteers
La Coccarda, which pays homage to the Savoy king Carlo Alberto, father of the first king of Italy
La Marcia Reale, Italy’s National Anthem from the Risorgimento to 1946
L’ Inno di Mameli, the current National Anthem, also known as Fratelli d’Italia
L’ Inno Nazionale del Regno delle Due Sicilie, the national anthem of the kingdom of the two Sicilies, i.e. southern Italy before unification

La Bandiera Tre Colori, a march of loyalty to the three colored flag

Addio Mia Bella, Addio, a song of a soldier bidding goodbye to his wife

E la Bella Gigogin’, a lively song sung by soldiers

Santa Lucia, a very old song about Naples

Mi Votu e MI Rivotu, a song in Sicilian dialect about someone unable to sleep for thinking about his love.

2. Video of Immigration Songs, similar to the above, but with ten songs relating the Italian emigration experience

These songs include: Mamma Mia Dammi Cento Lire, Merica Merica Merica, Io Parto per L’ America, Il Canto dell’ Emigrante, Terra Straniera, Santa Lucia Luntana, Emigrante che Vai, Emigrante che Vieni, Uei Paisano, and Lacreme Napuletane. Most of these are sad songs lamenting the plight of Italians living abroad in a strange land, sometimes leaving behind their families.

3. Video footage shown at the National Museum of Emigration in Rome, with background music and English subtitles supplied by Ron. This consists of old photos and films of immigrant scenes in Italy and the Americas accompanied by music that matches the mood of the films.

4. An exhibit of about fifty photos obtained by Father Tomasi that were shown at different times in exhibits sponsored by the Center for Migration Studies in New York. These photos, shot primarily in New York and other large cities of the US, some in Washington, depict immigrant life and prominent Italian Americans dating back to the early 1900s as well as more recently.

5. A series of video interviews of Washington area Italian immigrants, or in one case a descendant of immigrants, recounting the immigrant experience of themselves and their families.

Those interviewed include:

ICS member Elio Grandi, who is a US citizen by birth and also accidentally by naturalization, and who served time in a concentration camp after a German court martial

ICS members Lucio and Edvige D’ Andrea, whose families came from small towns in Molise and who suffered through German occupation during World War II.

ICS member Marilyn Austin, who told of her grandmother, who came to the US in the 1890s and was sent to a virtual slave labor camp but managed to escape

Nick Ferrante (age 91), who came as a very young man, started work in a grocery store and worked his way to owning a large meat packing business

Graziella Iannacci, in the US over 40 years, a dressmaker who had clients from the Italian embassy as well as Washington society and married a railroad executive

LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST (continued)

Free Concert by the Coro Brigata Alpina Julia Congedati

The Holy Rosary Church, in conjunction with the Italian Cultural Society, Italians in DC, and the Abruzzo & Molise Heritage Society, is hosting a free concert by this chorus of retired soldiers from a brigade of Alpini on tour in the US. They sing traditional songs from the northeastern regions of Italy. Listen to samples of their music at http://www.corobajcongedati.it/. The concert will be in Casa Italiana on Wednesday, October 5 at 7PM.

Free Program on Palladio and the American Architectural Image

The Italian Cultural Society, together with the Abruzzo & Molise Heritage Society, the Embassy of Italy, the Institute of Classical Architecture and Art, and Classical America are sponsoring this program at the Embassy of Italy on Thursday, October 20 at 7:00 PM. A limited number of seats is being reserved for ICS members. If you definitely plan to attend, contact Ron Cappelletti ron.cappelletti@gmail.com to reserve seats on a first come first served basis. There will be light refreshments.

Palladio’s influence in North America is evident almost from the beginning of architect-designed building. Thomas Jefferson once referred to Palladio’s Quattro Libri dell’Architettura (Four Books of Architecture) as his bible. In Virginia and North and South Carolina, the Palladian manner is epitomized in numerous plantation houses, such as Mount Airy or Battersea, or Drayton Hall near Charleston.

The Speaker Calder Loth is Senior Architectural Historian for the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and a prominent expert on Palladio. He is author or co-author of several books and articles relating to American architecture including The Virginia Landmarks Register, 3rd and 4th Editions; and Lost Virginia: Vanished Landmarks of the Old Dominion. He is a co-curator of the exhibition “Palladio and His Legacy, a Transatlantic Journey,” and a member of the Board of Directors of the Center for Palladian Studies in America.

Simona Spiccianni, a teacher of Italian, here just ten years and married to an American, who gives her account of the difference between life in Italy and in the US today (in the US there are more opportunities but in Italy “it is easier to have fun”)

Gianluigi Dellaccio, proprietor of the Dolci Gelati, here just about ten years, married to an Italian American, who talks about starting his business and has a perspective on life in Italy vs. the US very similar to that of Ms. Spiccianni.

The first three of these presentations will be shown on a large screen video monitor in the main floor of Casa Italiana. The photo exhibit will be shown at the far end of Casa Italiana on tables along the wall under the mural. The video interviews will be shown upstairs in Casa Italiana.

Arrigo Mongini
ICS membership application

Mail application to:
c/o ICS Treasurer
4827 Rugby Avenue
Suite #301
Bethesda, MD 20814

Please make check payable to:
The Italian Cultural Society

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meeting location

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

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ICS the italian cultural society of washington, dc., inc.
(202) 333-CIAO
www.italianCulturalSociety.org

4827 Rugby Avenue, Suite #301
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