The Italian Cultural Society of Washington D.C.
Preserving and Promoting Italian Culture for All

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, 4433 South Park Ave., Chevy Chase, MD (See map on back cover)

November 17: Wine expert Laurent Guinand will discuss Italian wines and conduct a wine tasting (page 4).

November 23: National Philharmonic performs Giuseppe Verdi’s great Messa da Requiem in honor of 2013 the Year of Italian Culture. Tickets available at 20% discount to ICS members.

December 15: Christmas Party - Festa di Natale (page 6).

Movie of the Month at 1:00 PM: “Il Giovane Montalbano” (page 5)
Italian Lesson and Conversation on November 17 at 2:00 PM

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

How many times have we had a standing ovation for a guest artist at our Sunday socials? I can’t remember another one besides the well deserved applause given to Alessandra Garosi for her piano recital at the October meeting. Her enthusiastic renditions of 20th century American and Italian musical selections, each with a little jazz, as she said, resonated in the hall, and the audience responded. In the second part of her program, she played live accompaniment to a video on the life and music of Nino Rota, mostly from his film sound tracks and variations that fit the rhythm of the video. This was so much more exciting than watching a video with recorded sound. Brava Alessandra!

I am sure you will enjoy our November 17 meeting. We have invited wine expert Laurent Guinand who will enlighten us on old style and new style Italian wines, which you will also be able to taste along with hors d’oeuvres. Laurent has conducted many tastings in the area and is always entertaining and informative. There will be an entirely different winetasting on December 1, organized by our friends at the Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society at Casa Italiana. This one is a porchetta lunch involving local amateur wine makers offering their products to sample.

At the November meeting we are also trying out a new idea.
In addition to the 1:00 Movie of the Month we will show an Italian kids’ movie at 3:00 so parents or grandparents can enjoy the main program while the children are entertained by a movie.

Finally, be sure to “save the date” of December 15, when we have our annual Christmas Party, the Festa di Natale, involving Italian potluck, musical entertainment including Christmas carols, and children receiving presents from Babbo Natale.

Arrigo Mongini

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ITALIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM
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There are introductory, intermediate and advanced courses being offered. Please make your selection from Italian Language Program Fall 2013 class schedule
Watch the website for the schedule of fall classes.
www.italianculturalsociety.org 301-215-7885

ICS Board of Directors and their Responsibilities
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ICS Poche Parole Publication
Riccardo R. G. Cannavò, Editor
Romeo Segnan, Dennis Siracusa, Paolo Vidoli
Assistant Editors/ Writers

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: ics.pocheparole@gmail.com or on a computer CD/DVD to: Editor, Poche Parole, 4827 Rugby Avenue, Suite 301, Bethesda, MD 20814

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

WELCOME TO NEW ICS MEMBERS
It is with great pleasure that we welcome those Members who have joined us recently. As we welcome them we 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:
Carol Hansen-Vessa, Margaret Jones Steuart, Vincent & Caroline Manganiello, James F. McDermott, Esteban Mollino, Thomas Noemi, Olga Okorokova, John P. Romano, Margaret Lee Simmons, Cameron D. Whitman.
Benvenuti! Arrigo Mongini

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LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

National Gallery of Art
Guided tours of the Italian Renaissance collection are offered regularly, free of charge.
More information at (202) 842-6247 or www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/calendar/guided-tours.html?category=Guided Tours&pageNumber=1

Italian Cultural Institute (Italian Embassy)
More information at www.iicwashington.esteri.it/IIC_Washington/Menu/Gli_Eventi/Calendario

Italians in DC
Conference Startup di Italians in DC Incontrano Confindustria. November 4 at 6:30 pm.
More information at: http://www.italiansindc.com

ICS and Italian Cultural Institute (Italian Embassy)
Concert: Messa da Requiem. November 23, 8:00 pm, at Strathmore, Bethesda.

Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society
Wine-tasting and lecture A Brief Survey of Wine in Ancient Italy. December 1 at 1:00 pm.
More information at: http://www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org

Holy Rosary Church’s
Celebration Holy Rosary Church’s Centennial Celebration. December 8 at 4:00 pm.

Piazza Italia
Italian Language meetup group. See website for details and an excellent calendar of Italy-related events. http://www.meetup.com/DCitalian

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. Log on any time at Pino Cicala’s web site
www.italianamericancommunications.org
On November 17, the Italian Cultural Society will feature leading wine expert Laurent Guinand in a tasting and lecture entitled *Tradition and Revolution in the Italian Wine World*, in which he compares the more traditional wines (Piedmont, Veneto, Chianti, Brunello) with more innovative ones (Super Tuscan, IGT from Sicilia, Campania and Puglia). On December 1, the Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society will hold its annual Winemaker’s Tasting and Porchetta Luncheon, with winemaker/connoisseur Romeo Sabatini, speaking on *A Brief Survey of Wine in Ancient Italy*, at which local winemakers will offer their selections to those attending.

**COME TO BOTH!**

*details below*

*Tradition and Revolution in the Italian Wine World*

Come to our November 17 ICS meeting and hear Laurent Guinand explain the difference between the traditional wines of Italy such as Barolo, Gattinara, Chianti Classico, Pinot Grigio, and the new Italian wines that are not subject to the strict rules governing DOC and DOCG (Denominazione di Origine Controllata e Garantita) but are identified by the IGT (Indicazione Geografica Tipica) of where they are grown. You can taste examples of these types of wines while munching on hors d’oeuvres.

This event will be held at 3:00 PM in the Friendship Heights Village Center, 4433 South Park Ave., Chase Md. If you come early you can catch our Movie of the Month (*Il Giovane Moltalbano*) at 1 PM or participate in Silvana De Luca’s hour of Italian class and conversation. And, in the newest offering from ICS, you can now bring kids or grandkids who can watch the kids’ movie at 3:00 while you enjoy the tasting. Laurent will bring some fine examples of these wines. $10 for ICS members/$15 for non-members to help offset costs. All are welcome!

**DUE EVENTI DIVINI A DISTANZA DI DUE SETTIMANE!**

Il 17 novembre presso la Società di Cultura Italiana si terrà un *wine-tasting* condotto dall’esperto Laurent Guinand. Guinard farà anche una lezione dal titolo *Tradizione e Rivoluzione nel Mondo del Vino Italiano*, in cui paragonerà i più tradizionali vini italiani (Piemonte, Veneto, Chianti, Brunello) con i più innovativi (Super Tuscan, IGT da Sicilia, Campania e Puglia).

Il primo dicembre la Società Abruzzo e Molise terrà il proprio *wine-tasting* e pranzo a base di porchetta con il produttore ed esperto Romeo Sabatini che parlerà su *Un breve panorama dei vini nell’Italia Antica*. A questo evento i produttori locali offriranno una selezione dei propri vini.

L’evento avrà luogo alle 15:00 al Friendship Heights Village Center, 4433 South Park Ave., Chase Md. Se arriverete in anticipo potrete assistere al nostro Film del Mese (*Il Giovane Moltalbano*) alle 13:00 o partecipare alla lezione di conversazione italiana con Silvana De Luca. Infine, l’ultima offerta della Società, da questo meeting sarà possibile portare figli e nipoti che potranno guardare il film per bambini/ragazzi alle 15:00... proprio mentre i genitori si rilassano con il *wine-tasting*. Laurent porterà alcuni ottimi vini per il *tasting*. Per aiutare a coprire i costi dell’evento è richiesto il pagamento di $10 ai membri dell’ICS e $15 ai non membri. **Tutti sono benvenuti!!**
A Brief Survey of Wine in Ancient Italy
Our friends in the Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society (AMHS) are offering a porchetta lunch and tasting of wine from local amateur winemakers at their 1 PM December 1 meeting at Casa Italiana. This is a popular event every year in which you can stop at each of the tables set up by the winemakers and taste their wines. One of those winemakers, Romeo Sabatini, will give a talk on wine in ancient Italy. $15 for AMHS members and $20 for non-members. You need to pay for reservations by November 20.
Details at http://www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org

BACK TO THE SET
By Hospitality Chairman Joe Onofrietti
Sicilian actor Alessio Vassallo is torn between film and television. In 1983, he was born in Palermo. At 20, Vassallo began his career doing stage theatre. In 2007, he graduated from Rome’s National Academy of Dramatic Arts and then took part in a workshop directed by Luca Ronconi. Ronconi saw in him a rising star so he introduced Vassallo to the Cinecittà elite. Amazed by his raw skills, Alessio Vassallo was given many roles including Antonio in Today, as Yesterday (2009), Gulisano in Lost Kisses (2010) and Savior in The Tailor’s Wife (2011).
At that point, Rai Uno Television signed Vassallo to a record contract for parts as Mimi Augello in The Young Montalbano, Bishop Flores in The Borgias and Luca Redi in The Lord Be with You. Now Alessio Vassallo is back in cinema working on the production of La Moglie del Sarto which is scheduled for release in 2014.
The Italian Cultural Society film of the month is The Young Montalbano (2012). Police Chief Salvo Montalbano (Michele Riondino) was not informed of the arrival of Deputy Police Chief Mimi Augello (Alessio Vassallo), a bachelor with one goal in mind - to inspect, question and date every available female in Vigata, Sicily. The two argue over everything from which office Mimi should have to putting cheese on pasta in clam sauce when a call comes in about a petty theft of Birra Torrefelice beer caps.
The ensuing investigation uncovers a sinister drug smuggling and kidnapping plot. The pair examine the victim’s house meeting a family guest Genoese architect Livia Burlando (Sarah Felberbaum). When she provides a vital clue, suddenly it is the reserved Montalbano who wants to inspect, question and date Livia. The Young Montalbano will be shown in Italian with English subtitles.

Un breve panorama dei vini nell’Italia Antica
I nostri amici della Società Abruzzo e Molise offriranno un pranzo a base di porchetta e un wine-tasting con i viticoltori locali durante il loro meeting del primo dicembre a Casa Italiana; alle ore 13:00. È un tradizionale evento annuale in cui ciascuno può fermarsi a ogni tavolo ed assaggiare i vini che vi sono offerti. Uno di questi viticoltori sarà Romeo Sabatini che parlerà del vino nell’Italia antica. Il costo è $15 per i soci e $20 per i non soci. È necessario pagare e prenotare entro il 20 novembre.
Maggiori dettagli a:
http://www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org

RITORNO AL CINEMA
Di Joe Onofrietti Responsabile dell’Hospitalità
A quel punto Rai Uno ha offerto a Vassallo un contratto record per ricoprire la parte di Mimi Augello nel Giovane Montalbano, Il Vescovo Flores nei Borgias e Luca Redi in Dio sia con Te. Attualmente Alessio è ritornato a lavorare per il cinema collaborando alla produzione del film La Moglie del Sarto, con uscita prevista per il 2014.
Il film del mese è appunto Il Giovane Montalbano (2012). Il Commissario Salvo Montalbano (Michele Riondino) non è stato informato dell’arrivo del Vice Commissario Mimi Augello (Alessio Vassallo), uno scapolo con l’idea fissa di corteggiare e avere avventure sentimentali con tutte le ragazze e le donne di Vigata, in Sicilia. I due litigano su tutto… da quale sarà l’ufficio di Mimi, al mettere il formaggio sulla pasta o ancora per il sugo delle vongole… In commissariato arriva una chiamata circa un piccolo furto di tappi di birra della marca Birra Torrefelice. L’indagine che ne scaturisce mette in luce un traffico di droga e un progetto di sequestro di persona. Mentre i due poliziotti perquisiscono la casa incontrano un ospite di famiglia, l’architetto genovese Lidia Burlando (Sarah Felberbaum). Sarà Lidia a fornire loro un indizio vitale per la risoluzione del caso. Il Giovane Montalbano verrà mostrato in italiano coi sottotitoli in inglese.
ICS FESTA DI NATALE

Save the date, Sunday, December 15, 3 PM*
Friendship Heights Village Center
Musical Program and Children’s Program

Free and Open to All.
ICS will provide pasta, dolci, vini, and soft drinks.
PLEASE DO NOT BRING ANY DESSERTS.
To make this Festa an enjoyable Italian experience, please bring
deliciously made Homemade Italian dishes! (enough to share for 8 others)
Last Names A thru M: salads or antipasti, N thru Z: meat or casseroles
Note that an oven and microwave are available in the kitchen.

Please bring your children's presents by 3:00PM wrapped and with child's name and give
them to the elves at the door for distribution by Babbo & Co.

See detailed schedule etc. at our website www.italianculturalsociety.org and in the December Poche Parole

MY EXPERIENCE IN THE ILP
By Katy Mead
ILP Advanced student

My friend Dennis Siracusa introduced me to the Italian Language Program several years ago. I started with
Beginning Italian and now take Advanced Italian with Antonella Salvatore. I have learned so much about both the
language and culture.
As a former Spanish teacher, I still struggle with interjecting Spanish phrasing into Italian.
The Italian language program has introduced me to so many aspects of Italian life- the food, the cinema, various Italian
performers. I also enjoy reading Poche Parole.
I plan to continue my study of Italian with the program. I know that my Italian will never be perfect, but it is fun and
challenging to go to class and learn something new every time.

LA MIA ESPERIENZA NELL’ILP
Di Katy Mead
Studentessa del corso avanzato dell’ILP

Il mio amico Dennis Siracusa mi ha fatto conoscere il programma dei corsi di lingua italiana molti anni fa. Ho
cominciato con italiano per principianti e adesso seguo un corso avanzato con Antonella Salvatore. Ho imparato tanto
della lingua come della cultura.
Come insegnante di spagnolo, tuttavia ho problemi con la differenza tra le parole e frasi in italiano e spagnolo.
Il programma della lingua italiana mi ha aperto a molti aspetti della vita italiana: il cibo, il cinema, diversi artisti
italiani. Mi piace anche leggere Poche Parole.
Ho intenzione di continuare lo studio dell'italiano con l'ICS.
So che la mia abilità con l'italiano non sarà mai perfetta, ma è divertente e stimolante andare alla lezione e imparare
qualcosa di nuovo ogni volta.

<<<<< On the left
Karen Davies, Silvana De Luca and Katy Mead at the ICS
June’s awards banquet
Flush with success, in 1819, he left Egypt and returned to Europe. On December 6, 1819, the Venice newspaper reported that “The celebrated traveller Belzoni” was in town and was going to his hometown of Padua. In Padua, he saw his family and relatives and admired two statues of the Egyptian goddess Sekhmet which he had donated to his city and which had been placed in the Sala della Ragione, the civic meeting hall.

In March 1820, Belzoni returned to London. The Times told its readers: “The celebrated traveller Mr. Belzoni has arrived in this metropolis after an absence of 10 years, 5 of which he has employed in arduous researches after the curious remains of antiquities in Egypt and Nubia. The famous sarcophagus of alabaster, discovered by him in Thebes, is safely deposited in the hands of the British Consul in Alexandria, awaiting its embarkation for England along with the obelisk, 22 feet long, taken by Mr. Belzoni from Philae, above the first cataract of the Nile. Mr. Belzoni’s Journal of his discoveries in Egypt and Nubia and the Oasis will be published as soon as possible. The model of the beautiful tomb discovered by Mr. Belzoni in Thebes will be erected as soon as a convenient place shall be found for its reception…”

In London, Belzoni, assisted by his wife Sarah, because according to Lord George Byron, his English was “very prettily broken”, he wrote and published the following year an account of his adventures and discoveries titled “Narrative of the Operations and Recent Discoveries within the Pyramids, Temples, Tombs and Excavations in Egypt and Nubia, & C”. A volume of forty-four illustrations drawn by Belzoni and the artist Alessandro Ricci (1795-1834) complemented the book. It was a smashing editorial success and the well-known Quarterly Review wrote that Belzoni, “May justly be considered as the pioneer, and a most powerful and useful one, of antiquarian researches; he points out the road and makes it easy for others to travel over…”

Within two years, three editions were printed in London, with translations published in France, Germany, and Italy. About a century later famous Egyptologist Howard Carter (1874-1939), the discoverer of Tutankhamen’s tomb, described Belzoni’s book as “One of the most fascinating books in the whole of Egyptian literature.”

A show man as always, Belzoni sought to exploit his justly deserved notoriety by mounting an exhibition in the Egyptian Hall at Piccadilly. On display were artifacts he had gathered in his years in Egypt, including casts of the beautiful tomb of Seti I, a model of the Pyramid of Chephren, and a number of mummies. On the day the exhibition opened, May 1, 1821, Belzoni appeared before the crowd wrapped in mummy’s bandages, and created a sensation. He became quickly one of the most sought personalities in London, and hobnobbed with persons such as the Duke of Sussex, King George III’s son, and Sir Walter Scott. In April 1822, he travelled to St.
In the autumn, the exhibition of artifacts moved on to Paris, but without the success that it achieved in London, partly because Jean-François Champollion (1790-1832) had just published the first translation of the Rosetta Stone. Its hieroglyphs show that ancient Egyptian writing encompassed a combination of phonetic and ideographic symbols. 

Fame had not, however, brought Belzoni a great deal of money and he was soon driven back into the field, this time to West Africa, where he was set on exploring the course of the Niger River and find the mythical capital of Timbuktu. 

He first planned to go south through Morocco and went as far as Fez with his wife. There he made his will and entrusted it to her after she decided to return home. When he had problems securing the appropriate permits from the Moroccan authorities, he returned to Gibraltar and took a ship to the Canary Islands and then to the coast of West Africa, intending to reach his objective from the south. 

On November 22, he started his journey up the Niger River but near the village of Gwato, he fell sick with serious intestinal problems, most likely dysentery, and died on December 3, 1823, at forty-five. He was buried in loco under a large tree. 

Belzoni's wife Sarah survived him by forty-seven years. In 1851, in recognition of her husband's work, she was granted a government pension of one hundred pounds a year and a pension of one hundred pounds a year and
moved first to Brussels, Belgium, and then to the Channel Islands, where she died in 1870, at age 87. While Belzoni had many enemies and denigrators who considered him uneducated and “Not quite a gentleman”, in part because of his pride, energy, excitabale behavior, and independence. However, there is no denying that he made contributions to Egyptian archeology.

Howard Carter, speaking of Belzoni’s digs in the Valley of the Kings, described him as “One of the most remarkable men in the whole history of Egyptology…This was the first occasion on which excavations on a large scale had ever been made in the Valley, and we must give Belzoni full credit for the manner in which they were carried out.”

The Egypt Exploration Society, in its *Who Was Who in Egyptology* states: “He cannot be judged by the standards of later excavators such as Petrie, or even Mariette; but must be seen in the context of the period before decipherment; at the start of his career he was neither better nor worse than other contemporary figures, but he later evolved techniques for his work and acquired knowledge that raised him above the general level.”

Belzoni certainly deserves to be better known.

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**REPORT FROM THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM**

*By Ronald Cappelletti, Acting Director*

Since the October Poche Parole report from the ILP the new Italian Cultural Society website, [www.italianculturalsociety.org](http://www.italianculturalsociety.org), has “gone live” and I hope you have been enjoying it. Please bookmark it to keep up with information about what your society is doing in terms of meetings, events of various kinds, and, especially the Italian Language Program. Now you can look over our courses offered each quarter, make a choice, and click on a day and date for that course. This will take you to a website where you can register for the course online and pay by credit card. So far this method is working pretty smoothly with only a few “glitches”. About half of the students registering for courses starting in the second session have registered this way without any trouble.

I want to take this opportunity to tell you about our efforts to open classes for children 5-9 years old. We now have two courses, one for children who know no Italian at all taught by Sabrina Munao on Friday afternoon from 4 to 6 pm. For the parents of children in this class we are offering a class at the same time so that they can keep up with the kids and reinforce their learning. We have a modest beginning in this with 4 children, but we are confident that this effort will grow. The other class is for children who know some Italian but who do not speak it regularly taught by Francesca Fiscella. We have 7 students in the Tuesday afternoon class from 4-6 pm and 5 in the Saturday morning class from 10-12pm.

Each of these courses has a fully worked out syllabus with lesson plans for each meeting and the use of the “Total Physical Response” approach. We are currently working on plans for extensions of these courses into the winter quarter, so keep tuned. Special thanks are due to board and ILP steering committee member Francesca Casazza for all her efforts in this area. By the way, we hope to have a small musical presentation by the students in these classes ready for our Festa di Natale on Dec. 15.

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**ITALIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM FOR KIDS**

4827 Rugby Avenue, Suite 301
Bethesda, MD 20814

*We are very pleased to announce “Italian for Kids”. These classes aimed at children from 6-10, come in two flavors: one is for the children who come from homes in which Italian is spoken, and who know some Italian, but for whom it is a second language. The second flavor “Beginning Italian for Kids” is for children who don’t know the language, but would like to learn it.*

[www.italianculturalsociety.org](http://www.italianculturalsociety.org) 301-215-7885
The audience was moved to tears and applause as Alessandra Garosi went from Frank Zappa, Giorgio Gaslini, and Heitor Villa Lobos to George Gershwin in a flurry of rhythm that left her listeners wanting more.

The afternoon’s feature presentation was her performance of Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue* to which she added just a touch of improvisation to make the well-worn classic seem new. The audience stood to applaud her virtuosity, some with tears in their eyes.

Ms. Garosi closed the concert with a heartfelt bow to the showmanship of Nino Rota who scored music for over 150 films. Garosi, who is also a teacher, wanted to create a program that would appeal to her students. She teamed up with Giovanni Massa, a movie manager, and they created a video by pasting clips from Rota’s films and stills into a pastiche while she played the themes he wrote for those films. The most poignant moment came when she played the theme from *The Godfather*.

J.T. Powell, (seen below with Yura Khrapko) a returning member of the ICS, said of Garosi’s performance, “The concept of playing Rota’s music while watching scenes from his movies was tanto brava.” Melody Musette, Paul Kelly and Hal Matson came to the concert specifically to hear Garosi and were not disappointed. Yura, from Belaruse, is new to English, but said that “one does not have to speak the language well to understand good music.”

When she finished, Arrigo Mongini, President of the ICS, presented Ms. Garosi with a book on Washington, D.C. as a token of the society’s regard for her dedication to spread Italian culture through her music.

Ms. Garosi was kind enough to stay for the refreshments and to talk to ICS members about her life and music.
Pictures from our October Social Meeting

Arrigo Mongini introduces our guest

Anthony Galizia Luigi De Luca and Francesca Casazza

George Hunter and Frances Li, a student of Silvana De Luca

Alessandra Garosi
The Italian Cultural Society of Washington, DC, Inc.
(301) 215-7885
www.ItalianCulturalSociety.org

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The expiration date of your membership is shown on the address label. Please renew using the form at the bottom of this page.

ICS membership application

Mail application to:
ICS Membership
4827 Rugby Ave., Suite 301
Bethesda, MD 20814

Please make check payable to:
The Italian Cultural Society

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Type of Membership
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meeting location

Friendship Heights Village Center
4433 South Park Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815