Poche Parole
The Italian Cultural Society of Washington D.C
Preserving and Promoting Italian Culture for All
www.italianculturalsociety.org

ICS EVENTS

Social meetings start at 3:00PM on the third Sunday of the month, September through May, at the Friendship Heights Village Center, 4433 South Park Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD (see map on back cover).


**Linda Osborne** of the Library of Congress will be the guest speaker. She will discuss her new book, *Explorers immigrants Citizens: A Visual History of the Italian American Experience*.

**Friday, May 16**: Scholarship applications due.

**Sunday, May 18**: Discover Liguria and its People presented by Carlo Ellena.

**Saturday, June 28**: next Immersion Course for those traveling to Italy starts.

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**Maria Wilmeth, founder of the ICS, is interred at Arlington Cemetery.**

Photo by Ron Cappelletti

**March’s speaker, Frank Palumbo, exhibits an ancient coin of Sicily.**

Photo by Joe Onofrietti

Tribute on page 3.

Story on page 4.
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

I was very happy that the ICS was able to support the American Association of Teachers of Italian by lending our space at Friendship Heights for an awards ceremony for elementary and secondary school students of Italian in the Washington area. It was another contribution in support of our mission to preserve and promote Italian language and culture.

Our meeting featured Frank Palumbo’s presentation on ancient Greek coins found in Sicily from the period when the Greeks lived on the island. Frank’s talk about his hobby of collecting coins was aided by Ron Cappelletti’s clever method of projecting the images of tiny coins on the screen with a rigged up webcam. One coin, 3/8’s inch in diameter, was projected to appear six feet.

I had the pleasure of having lunch at a pizza party at Pizzeria Da Marco, in celebration of the end of the winter term of our Italian Language Program. It was a big success. About 70 people attended and the ILP received a share of the proceeds donated by the restaurant.

At our April meeting Linda Osborne of the Library of Congress will tell us about her book “Explorers, Immigrants, Citizens: a Visual History of the Italian American Experience.” Read a review at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/carla-seaquist/book-review-the-italianam_b_4423402.html. Also, read the information on page 10 regarding ICS scholarship applications. We are making a special effort to encourage candidates to apply. If you know someone who qualifies, let that person know. Don’t forget that we hold an election of board members at the April meeting.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome our new members. (see below)

Arrigo Mongini

Welcome To New ICS Members

Conceicao Araujo Andrade
David Cieslikowski
Jonathan DiMartino
Krystyna H Dollison
Paul Dowling
Beatrice C Fuller
Catherine F and Tillman Neuner Scott
Thomas A and Anne L Sexton
Carla, Davide, Gianluca and Aurora Sguigna

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A gathering of approximately 75 people, including family and friends, came to pay their last respects to ICS Italian Language Program Founding Director, Dr. Maria Guarrera Wilmeth who passed away on December 18, 2013. The service was held on the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall in the Old Post Chapel at 2:45 pm on Tuesday, March 18, 2014. Accompanied by an organ fanfare, an honor guard troop carried the casket containing Maria’s mortal remains into the chapel and placed it at the foot of the altar. Army chaplain Hunt read two texts, one from the book of Wisdom, the second the XXIII Psalm, and then read from the Gospel of John on the miracle of the raising of Lazarus. He preached a sermon based on this text to remind those present of the life to come. After prayers, there was an organ performance by Randall K. Sheets of the hymn Amazing Grace. There followed remarks by Deborah Campos, daughter of Maria Wilmeth, giving a brief description of Dr. Wilmeth’s distinguished life and accomplishments.

A funeral cortege of more than 50 vehicles was assembled and proceeded to the graveside in Arlington National Cemetery where the honor guard in a formal ceremony removed the casket from the hearse and set it on a site for the final graveside remarks and prayers after which family and friends placed roses on the casket. Dr. Wilmeth is interred next to her husband, Lt. Col. Elwood E. Wilmeth, who passed away in 1995.

Following the service, a reception for the guests was held at the Ft. Myer Officers’ Club where friends offered condolences to the family and exchanged memories of Dr. Wilmeth.

-Ron Cappelletti-Vice President of the ICS.

From 1974 to 2008, Dr. Wilmeth served as Director of the Italian Language Program sponsored by the Italian Cultural Society of Washington, D.C. where she designed and implemented the children and adult programs, hired instructors and selected textbooks.

She envisioned the Italian Language Program as an organization that would provide an educational service to the Italian community in collaboration with the Education Office of the Embassy of Italy and would serve as a welcoming venue for Americans wishing to learn the Italian language and culture in the Washington Metropolitan area.

She established a role for the Italian Cultural Society as an “Ente Gestore” to manage Italian Embassy efforts in placing teachers of Italian in local schools and educating children of Italians planning to return to Italy.

-Deborah Campos (daughter).
Ancient Sicilian Coins

Coins of Ancient Greek Sicily, Frank Palumbo, collector

At our March social meeting, ICS member Frank Palumbo, selecting from his large collection of ancient coins delved into the history of the Greek colonies of Sicily, illustrating it with coins from several of the many cities and their sub-colonies that were founded by various competing mother cities in Greece during the pre-Christian era. Some of these coins are remarkable for the fineness of the graven images, not to mention their esthetic elegance which could be considered exemplary in any era. How fine engravings were accomplished (and probably by slaves, no less) in dies for coins as small as a few millimeters across in a time before the discovery of magnifying optics remains a matter of speculation. Palumbo gave a brief discourse on the appearance of coin money and its effect on the economy of the ancient Mediterranean basin. He allowed fascinated members to experience history by holding in their hands coins surviving from several hundred years before the Christian era (and valued at several thousands of dollars).

Pictured below is one of Frank’s coins, a drachm from Leontinoi (modern Lentini.)

-Ron Cappelletti
REPORT FROM THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM

On Saturday, March 22, we celebrated the end of the winter term with our students at Pizzeria Da Marco in Bethesda. Over eighty people joined the event that was coordinated only one week in advance, but ended up being a very well-appreciated get together, and will become a yearly routine. For this occasion, Pizzeria Da Marco donated 15% of the proceeds to the Italian Language Program. Thank you all for participating!

The course “Discover Sicily: history, culture, food and wine on the island of sun,” Saturdays from 2:00-4:30 pm, saw a full classroom on its first day, when an introduction of the fascinating history of the island opened the course, and a tasting of Caciocavallo Ragusano DOP, one of the oldest cheeses of the island (XIV century) ended the session.

Spring term is approaching and we welcome everybody to join our traditional language classes and new cultural classes about Opera and History of the Cinema.

Food/Wine Pairing, a five-week class, will include a sophisticated food and wine tasting at the restaurant I Ricchi to conclude the learning adventure.

On May 13, another class + trip experience will start. As a native Genovese, I am proud to introduce you to “Discover Liguria and its People.” During this five week course, Instructor Carlo Ellena, also from Liguria, will introduce you to this narrow land, squeezed between the mountains and the sea, with its mild climate, breathtaking views, small fishing villages with tall and colorful houses, secluded bays and hidden art treasures. The course, in Italian, will teach you the history of Genoa, the “Superba” city, the biggest in Europe during the medieval age, and will have you discover artisanal and agricultural traditions through real interviews to native people. If you can also enjoy the trip, you will discover the perfect place to live the Italian “dolce vita” and immerse yourself with its unstopped traditions, discover the tastes of its cuisine and meet real locals.

- Francesca Casazza, Director

http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/immersion-course-for-travelers-2/
As a fun way to speak Italian, Francesca Casazza, Director of the ILP, organized a Saturday afternoon outing at Da Marco’s Pizzeria. More than 80 students participated.

Beata and Mateusz Gierolaski, Lou Masciocchi.

Ellen Masciocchi, Christina Haire, Jeni Maneva, and instructor/ILP Director, Francesca Casazza.

Aja Blitte, Renata Shaw Grisselle Cohen and Anne Dyer from Antonella Pellegrino’s class.

Stuart Plattner, Susan Abshey and Ian Rose from Carlo Ellena’s class.

Instructor, Carlo Ellena, (on right) with members of his class.

Jim Harrison, Cameron Whitman, and instructor, Antonella Pellegrino.

Instructor, Silvana De Luca and Geoffrey de Mers.
Phoenician Sicily-Translated

Thucydides, Diodorus, and many other writers and ancient historians speak of the splendor, richness and beauty of the place. The city has strong walls and two monumental gates (north and south) and is connected to Sicily by road (now submerged but still visible and preserved in many segments) that led to the North gate of the settlement.

The exact date of the foundation of the colony is not known but the island was already inhabited in the eighth century BCE, practically at the beginning of the Phoenician civilization in Sicily.

The island was a true and proper city state. The urban fabric included temples, residential houses, stores, public and military buildings, commercial activity, ports and dry docks. The necropolis was also there (on the North coast). After the expansion of the settlement, the necropolis was moved to terra firma in an area called Promontorio di Birgi.

The funerary equipment consists of Phoenician-Punic ceramics along with examples of imported Corinthian ceramics, in addition to steel weapons, (daggers and swords) ornamental objects in gold, silver and bronze (pendants, bracelets, ear rings, rings, etc) in addition to ceramic serving implements, of both local and imported production. The island took part in the eternal Greco/Punic wars, and in 397 BCE it was completely destroyed by the Greeks from Siracuse at the orders of Dionisius the tyrant (known as the Old Man) after a year long siege. The inhabitants were slaughtered and the few survivors fled the island and founded the colony of Lilybæaum (today, Marsala). However, a year later, the island was re-conquered by the Carthaginians. As happened to Palermo, the city passed to the Romans after the defeat of Carthage in the First Punic War in 241 BCE

In the early nineteen hundreds the entire island was acquired by Joseph Whitaker, an archeologist and heir to an English family that had moved to Sicily and become rich through the production of Marsala wine. It was he who promoted the first real archeological excavations in 1906. Whitaker worked on the layout of the excavations and on the fitting out of the museum. During the next century, the archeological missions of three universities (the University of Leeds, England, Sapienza University, Rome, and the University of Palermo) were engaged in the digs on the island, with exceptional and very important results that allowed us to obtain much information on this fascinating and mysterious civilization. On the island the museum was outfitted with the findings discovered during the digs. In 1979, an exceptional piece of art was found; a white marble statue representing a youth called The Young Man of Mozia.

The island of Mozia is a tourist destination not to be missed for all visitors to western Sicily. The settlement represents one of there are examples of Phoenician urban fabric almost completely conserved. Although private property, the island is open to the public and visitable year round.

La Sicilia Fenicia
Riccardo Cannavo’

Tucidide, Diodoro e molti altri scrittori e storici antichi parlano dello splendore, della ricchezza e della bellezza del posto.

L’isola era dotata di possenti mura e di due porte monumentali (a nord e a sud), era collegata alla Sicilia da una strada (ora sommersa ma ancora visibile e conservata in molti tratti) che conduceva alla porta nord dell’abitato. Non si conosce la data esatta di fondazione della colonia ma l’isola risulta già abitata nell’VIII secolo a.C., praticamente all’inizio della civiltà fenicia in Sicilia.

L’isola era una vera e propria città stato, il tessuto urbano comprendeva templi, abitazioni, mercati, edifici pubblici e militari, attività commerciali e porti e bacini di carenaggio. Era presente anche la necropoli (situata sulla costa nord), tuttavia a seguito dell’ingrandimento dell’abitato la necropoli fu spostata sulla terra ferma nella zona denominata Promontorio di Birgi.


Agli inizi del Novecento l’intera isola fu acquistata da Joseph Whitaker, archeologo ed erede di una famiglia inglese che si era trasferita in Sicilia arricchendosi con la produzione del marsala. Fu lui a promuovere i primi veri e propri scavi archeologici nel 1906; Whitaker si occupò inoltre della sistemazione degli scavi e dell’allestimento del museo. Durante lo scorso secolo le missioni archeologiche di ben tre università (l’Università di Leeds, Inghilterra; l’Università La Sapienza di Roma e l’Università di Palermo) sono state impegnate negli scavi sull’isola con risultati eccezionali e importantissimi che ci hanno consentito di ottenere molte informazioni su quest’affascinante e misteriosa civiltà. Sull’isola è allestito il museo con i reperti rinvenuti durante gli scavi tra cui di eccezionale bellezza è il Giovinetto di Mozia (una statua di marmo bianco raffigurante un giovane) ritrovato nel 1979.

L’isola di Mozia è una meta da non perdere assolutamente per tutti i visitatori che si recano nella Sicilia occidentale, l’abitato rappresenta uno dei rari esempi di tessuto urbano fenicio quasi completamente conservato. Seppure di proprietà privata, l’isola è aperta al pubblico e visitabile in tutti i periodi dell’anno.
Mozia

Kfr is today Solunto, on Mount. Catafano, about four kilometers from the city of Bagheria in the province of Palermo. Thucydides reports that when the Greeks arrived in Sicily they found the city of Solunto occupied by Phoenicians, along with Mozia and Palermo (The Peloponnesian War, VI, 2, 6).

The city had the typical Phoenician structure of streets oriented northeast to southwest intersected by minor perpendicular axes. The main street (today called Via dell’Agorà) leads to the Agora Market place) the highest point in the city and site of the public buildings. The city theater, the senate building, and the grand sanctuary used for worship are conserved. Other public buildings that have not been identified are also present. Even the residential areas have been well identified and they show the presence of diverse social classes residing in the city and present in the necropolis.

As with Mozia the city was destroyed by the Siracusan Greeks under the command of the tyrant Dionysius in 396 BCE. Solunto was quickly reconstructed by Phoenician Carthaginians several years after 254 BCE during the first Punic war. It surrendered voluntarily to Rome (as reported by Diodoro Siculo). The city passed definitively to the Romans after the defeat of Carthage in the first Punic war in 241 BCE through the fifth treaty stipulated between Rome and Carthage. The archeological site and museum are open to the public year round.

Lilybæaum (today in the area of Capo Boeo, city of Marsala in the province of Trapani) was founded by the Phoenician inhabitants of Mozia, after the destruction of the latter colony by Dionysius of Syracuse in 397 BCE, according to a report by Diodoro Siculo “This city [Lilybæaum] had been founded by the Carthaginians after the destruction of Mozia by Dionysius the tyrant: in fact they had gathered the survivors and installed them in Lilybæaum.” (Historical Library, XXII, 10)

After its founding, the new colony was provided with massive defensive walls that allowed it to resist the second expedition of Dionysius in 368 BCE, at Pyrrhus in 277 BCE and by the Romans during the first Punic War. The city was never completely expugnated but was ceded to the Romans by the Phoenician/Carthaginians in 241 BCE, along with all the Punic possessions in Sicily. Some sections of the wall are still visible in the historic center of Marsala, in the area of Porta Trapani. There was a grand gate complex with many service buildings. Several public buildings and temples have been brought to light. There are remains of artisanal and commercial activities, but most of the urban fabric lies under the modern city of Marsala. -Concludes in the next issue.

La città aveva la tipica struttura fenicia di strade orientate da nord-est a sud-ovest intersecati da assi minori perpendicolari, la strada principale (oggi chiamata Via dell’Agorà) conduce all’Agorà, la parte più alta della città sede degli edifici pubblici. Sono conservati il teatro cittadino, l’edificio del senato e il grande santuario destinato ai culti. Sono inoltre presenti altri edifici pubblici non ancora identificati. Anche i quartieri residenziali sono stati bene identificati e dimostrano la presenza di diverse classi sociali residenti in città; è presente la necropoli cittadina.


Lilybæaum (oggi nell’area di Capo Boeo, città di Marsala in provincia di Trapani) fu fondata dai Fenici abitanti di Mozia dopo la distruzione di quest’ultima colonia ad opera di Dionisio I di Siracusa nel 397 a.C., secondo quanto riporta Diodoro Siculo “Questa città [Lilibeo] era stata fondata dai Cartaginesi dopo la distruzione di Mozia da parte del tiranno Dionigi: infatti, ne avevano raccolto gli scampati, e li avevano insediati in Lilibeo” (Biblioteca Storica, XXII, 10)

Dopo la fondazione, la nuova colonia fu dotata di poderose mura defensive che le permisero di resistere alla seconda spedizione di Dionisio I nel 368 a.C., a Pirro nel 277 a.C., e ai Romani durante la prima guerra punica, la città non fu mai espugnata ma fu consegnata dai Fenici-Cartaginesi ai Romani nel 241 a.C., insieme a tutti gli altri possedimenti punici in Sicilia. Alcuni tratti delle mura sono tuttora visibili al centro storico di Marsala, nell’area di Porta Trapani. Era presente un grande e complesso portuale con molte strutture di servizio e sono stati rinvenuti alcuni edifici pubblici e templi. Vi sono resti di attività artigianali e commerciali ma la maggior parte del tessuto urbano è adesso sotto il moderno abitato della città di Marsala.

-La Sicilia Fenicia conclude nel prossimo numero.
Movie of the Month

La Dolce Vita

The famous Hollywood on the Tiber phenomenon of 1958 was about American studios profiting off less expensive studio labor available in Cinecittà. This provided the backdrop for photo journalists to start taking candid snapshots of celebrities along Via Veneto. Those actions inspired critically acclaimed screenwriter and director Federico Fellini to film a movie about tabloid exploitation of the stars. Fellini’s work gave birth to the word “Paparazzi” in our culture to describe intrusive photographers. Some say that is an actual family name. Some say that is the name of a person who frequently harassed Federico’s wife Giulietta Masina. Fellini scholar Peter Bondanella explained paparazzi was a corruption of the Italian word papataceo, a bothersome mosquito.

The Italian Cultural Society film of the month is La Dolce Vita (1960). Gossip magazine columnist Marcello Rubini (Marcello Mastroianni) is sent to Rome’s Ciampino Airport to report on the arrival of the beautiful, world famous Swedish American actress, Sylvia (Anita Ekberg). At the press conference, Marcello suggests she tour St. Peter’s Cathedral and Sylvia takes the advice. The paparazzi dub Sylvia “the elevator,” because they cannot match her energetic climb up the many flights of stairs inside the dome. Suddenly, Marcello seizes his opportunity for an exclusive interview by sprinting like a cheetah to catch her as they finally reach the balcony overlooking the Vatican. La Dolce Vita won an Oscar for Best Costume Design at the 1960 Academy Awards, won the Palme d’Or at the 1960 Cannes Film Festival and was voted the sixth best major motion picture of all time by Entertainment Weekly. La Dolce Vita will be shown in Italian with English subtitles.

-Joe Onofrietti

Kids’ Movie of the Month

Ernest and Celestine

Racconta sostanzialmente l’incontro dei due personaggi che, nei fumetti, vivono numerose avventure.

Nel sottosuolo della città degli orsi si sviluppa il mondo dei topi. Le due civiltà, sostanzialmente simili, si osteggiano e si ignorano a vicenda.

Ernest è un orso solitario che vive in campagna e giunge in città solo per racimolare qualche soldo facendo il suonatore ambulante.

Celestine è una topina orfanella che, nonostante cresca in un ambiente dove gli orsi sono sempre presentati come ostili e cattivi, cresce con l’idea che un’amicizia con loro sia possibile.

Una volta cresciuta, decide di diventare una dentista. L’apprendistato del dentista murino è curioso, poiché il giovane aspirante deve andare nottetempo nella città soprastante e sgraffignare i dentini decidui che gli orsacchiotti pongono sotto il cuscino la notte, convinti dai genitori di un misterioso premio in danaro. Tali canini serviranno per gli anziani roditori.

Una notte Celestine viene scoperta dagli orsi adulti e inseguita a suon di scopa. Purtroppo si imprigiona da sola in un cestino e viene trovata la mattina seguente per puro caso da Ernest, che era in cerca di cibo. Celestine per ringraziarlo, lo fa entrare in un negozio di dolciumi.

È così che, anche in seguito ad altre peripezie, i due diventano amici, ma sono anche inseguiti dalla polizia dei due mondi.

Si rifugiano, per passare l’inverno, nella casa di Ernest.

Senonché alla primavera vengono scoperti e portati in tribunale: Ernest in quello dei topi e Celestine in quello degli orsi.

I due tribunali si trovano proprio uno sull’altro e, caso vuole che entrambi vengano stretti dalla morsa di un incendio. Ernest e Celestine salveranno tutti, convincendo anche gli astanti che un’amicizia, o quanto meno una collaborazione, tra i due mondi è possibile.
ICS Award Applications deadline: Postmarked on the third Friday of May, (May 16).

Except for the Moriggi/Palumbo Award, applicants should be no more than 25 years of age as of the third Friday of May, the postmarked date for receipt of applications.

Applications are being sought for the following Awards:

◦ The Maria Guarrera Wilmeth Awards: two awards of $500 each for outstanding Washington metropolitan area high-school students of the Italian language.

◦ The Elena and Antonio De Luca Award: one $1000 award to be given to an undergraduate or graduate student who has excelled in the study of Latin and/or Greek.

◦ The Luciana Montanari-Mendola Awards: one $1000 award for an undergraduate or conservatory student showing promise in piano performance and one $350 award for a high-school age pianist showing promise in piano performance. Examples of recordings must accompany your application and must include one piece for solo piano by Frederick Chopin.

◦ The Ruggiero Moriggi/Vincenzo Palumbo Artisan Award: one $500 award to be given to a person who has excelled in the fine arts (exclusive of music), or to an artisan who has excelled in a traditional Italian craft (such as ceramics, jewelry, leather-working, furniture-making, musical instruments, lace work, fine fabrics, etc.). Written reviews and/or photographs, etc. of your work must be submitted to the Awards Committee. Age restriction does not apply.

◦ The Anna Menapace Award: one $300 award to be given to a high-school student who has excelled in the art of painting.

◦ The Patricia Segnan Award: one $1000 award to be given to an undergraduate or graduate student who has excelled in the creation of art.

◦ The Young Scientist Award: one $1000 award to be given to an undergraduate or graduate student who has excelled in one of the basic sciences: physics, chemistry or biology.

Applications

Materials to be included in the application are:

● College transcripts or, where appropriate, high-school transcripts (These are not required for the Ruggiero Moriggi/Vincenzo Palumbo Award. That person should submit photographs or other examples of his/her work.)

● Three letters of recommendation

● An essay describing why the applicant is a valid contender for the award

● A short biographical presentation of the candidate (curriculum vitae)

● Anything that would demonstrate the ability of the candidate, including publications by and/or about the candidate, photographs, CDs, etc.

Selection will occur during the last week of May and awards will be presented at the ICS Awards Gala, which takes place in June at a location to be announced, as will be advertised in our newsletter “Poche Parole” and website. Attendance at the Awards Gala is required and awards will be reassigned if the winner is unable to attend, except for exceptional circumstances as determined by the Awards Committee. The winners of the Luciana Montanari-Mendola award may be asked to perform at the Awards Gala.

Applications must be postmarked by due date mentioned above and sent to:

The Italian Cultural Society Award Applications
4827 Rugby Ave., Suite #301
Bethesda, MD 20814

In addition, each year the Italian Cultural Society provides awards to students of Italian at universities in the Washington, DC area: Georgetown University, The University of Maryland, George Washington University, and Catholic University. The awardees are selected by the Italian language programs at these universities. The awards are funded by donations in honor of former ILP director, Cesarina Horing.

Opening of new Italian Gourmet shop in Gaithersburg: Gemelli’s, located at 12169 Darnestown Road (Rte 28), Gaithersburg, MD in the Shops at Potomac Valley shopping center. Tel: 240.477.8225; gemellisitalianmarket.com, Maurizio Calcagno, from Liguria, is the proprietor.
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Santino Selmy-proprietor

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**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

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Tutto è bene quel finisce bene.