ICS EVENTS
Social meetings start at 3:00 p.m. 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).
Sunday, January 18: 1:00 p.m., Special Movie, (See p. 3). 3:00 p.m. Tony Zanelotti will speak on his experiences as a TV producer of reality shows such as “America’s Most Wanted” (see picture at right).
February 15: 3:00 p.m. CARNEVALE SAVE THE DATE and come to a murder-mystery enactment and delicious dinner with a Venetian twist. Watch for the RSVP and details on our website, email, and in the next Poche Parole.

The list of donated prizes raffled off at Festa di Natale.

Professor De Luca on Greek & Latin: Golden Tongues of the Mediterranean Basin.

Silvia Avanzi holds Alicee Grada who just saw Babbo Natale.
The President’s Message
What a fabulous Festa di Natale: Someone commented that it was like a huge festival in a small Italian town. Over 300 people, including about 90 children, gathered at the Friendship Heights Village Center to hear our favorite Soprano, Angela Knight, sing operatic arias and Christmas carols, to have their kids participate in children’s programs, to get children’s presents from Babbo Natale, to see Luigi De Luca’s presepio, and to dine on delicious Italian “potluck” food and lasagna provided by our own chef and cooking teacher, Maura Maffia. IT WAS A truly historic event thanks to Olga Mancuso, other ICS board members, friends, our partners Le D.I.V.E. and MaPaCI, all those who brought that delicious food and, of course, Babbo Natale, La Befana, and the Elves.

Our party represents just one of many Italian events and organizations in our area that we are so fortunate to enjoy. Just look at some of the links on our website that include Casa Italiana, Italians in DC, the Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society, the meet-up groups, and, of course, the Embassy of Italy and the Italian Cultural Institute.

At the January 18 social Tony Zanelotti, a long time producer of the TV show “America’s Most Wanted,” will tell us how the show was instrumental in bringing major criminals to justice by getting ordinary citizens to identify them to the authorities. I am sure he has many interesting anecdotes to share. (See p.3). Another feature of the January 18 social will be a special Movie of the Month. Unlike the commercial films we usually show, “Il Seme ed il Mare” was produced, directed, and acted by the people of the little Tuscan town of Casole D’ Elsa. It is very funny. Come early (at 1:00 PM) and see the movie. (See p.3).

From the ICS board and myself, auguri di un felice anno nuovo. Also, WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:

Adriana Hopper
Francisco and Lucy Fonseca
Massimo Quartararo
Eyal Uzana

Events of Local Interest
February 1-May 3, 2015-Piero di Cosimo; National Gallery
March 1-August 2, 2015-From the Library: Florentine Publishing in the Renaissance; National Gallery, West Wing
May 3-July 26, 2015-Drawing in Silver and Gold: Leonardo to Jasper Johns; National Gallery, West Wing

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Tony Zanelotti has worked with five US Presidents, US Justice Department, US Marshals, Interpol, FBI, ATF, Secret Service, Homeland Security, Coast Guard, ICE, Texas Rangers, Border Patrol and numerous other federal and local law enforcement agencies around the U.S. and internationally.

In the 1990s, he was senior producer for the launch of Fox’s F/X cable network in New York City, in charge of planning primetime/daytime programming.

Recently Zanelotti, executive produced the Movie “Truth About Kerry” a murder thriller based in a small town in Ireland.

Currently, Tony is a creative producer at Viva Creative Agency in Rockville, Maryland. He is also a development specialist creating new reality series for network and cable outlets.

**SPECIAL MOVIE OF THE MONTH**

by Arrigo Mongini

“*Il Seme ed il Mare*” is the January Movie of the Month, a production of the citizens of the little town of Casole d’Elsa (population 3000), located in Tuscany, about halfway between Siena and Volterra. The film was made entirely with volunteer labor—producer, director, writer, editor, camera man, sound technician, musicians, and actors. Even the Carabinieri and the Polizia, as well as the mayor participated. It tells the story of a retired professor, a bachelor, who one day receives a letter from a woman that he had known 60 years ago when both of them were students. He had not seen her since that time, but in the letter she invites him to visit her in Morocco, where she had moved. He decides to go, and enlists the help of an itinerant vendor, an illegal immigrant, and the local bartender, who also wants to get away on an adventure.

A series of mishaps ensues, with the cops in pursuit, in their attempt to reach Africa, at first unsuccessfully by air, and then by a circuitous water route with the help of a punk hippie who is into fantasy internet games.

The movie came to our attention through a student of Camilla Presti Russell, one of the teachers of our Italian Language Program and the University of Maryland. The student, Stuart Plattner, helped to write the English subtitles in collaboration with the director, Riccardo Casamonti, who is also a local farmer whom Stuart befriended during his vacation trips to the area. The movie is funny and despite its “no budget” nature seems almost professionally done. It is a full length feature of one hour and ten minutes. Stuart Plattner will make introductory comments. You can watch the Italian trailer by going to: [http://ilsemeedilmare.wordpress.com](http://ilsemeedilmare.wordpress.com). When the web page comes up click on “video” and you will get the trailer and a “backstage” clip about the making of the movie. **The film will run one hour and fifty minutes.**
Ron Cappelletti and Nick Monaco are about to hang the colors. Luigi De Luca supervises Nicole and Isabel in the erection of the presepe. (Below, right) A happy child receives his gift from Babbo Natale as I Folletti and La Befana. (Below) The children sang “Tu scendi dalle stelle” and “Bianco Natale.”
The Raffle Winners

Louise (Rossi Cappelletti) Ingala wins a certificate to I Ricchi restaurant valued at $50.

Francesca Casazza presents Carla Kleim a visit to EYMA Salon & Spa valued at $100.

Diana Domingues wins a course at the ILP valued at $265.

Sonia Balboni takes home a bottle of white wine.

Silvana De Luca wins the box of La Florentine candy.

Longo Cassa Wells takes home a tie from DePandi valued at $140.

Another guest wins a box of products from Santa Maria Novella valued at $200.

Brenda Monaco, seen in a picture taken at a previous raffle, won a dinner valued at $40 at DaMarco’s Pizzeria.

Claudia Vidoli is happy with her box of Torrone.

Gabriella Goodwin wins an ICS tote bag.
Children's Activities

La Befana passes out bags of candy coal to the children. The children wait to hear their names called by Babbo Natale to receive their gifts. Below: The “Mad Scientist” entertains the kids under the auspices of MaPaCi.

Will and Livija with teacher Tamara D'Addieco draw Christmas decorations in school for the Festa di Natale.

The children, standing in front of their art work, are getting ready to entertain.
REPORT OF THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM

In 2014, the ILP recognized an overall increase in enrollment of over 60%. We are very happy that more people are able to enjoy our “corner of Italy” in Maryland!

Our primary goal is to offer authentic immersion into Italian language, literature, cinema, opera, art, history, cuisine, and our way of life. We also enable you to experience the Italian lifestyle when you travel and hope that more of you will take advantage of our “course + trip” ideas and our “study abroad” recommendations. We will gradually add suggestions on places in Italy, whenever we feel positive that it will be a good experience for you.

We also are proud to widen our offering with the teaching of Latin, the origin of our language, to deepen the history of our civilization, and the teaching of Art and Cooking (in English and in Italian) to develop your talents with the support of our Italian instructors. We are lucky to have such high level instructors, not only for these three new additional classes, but for all of our courses, including kids and teens’ classes. Please visit our page http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/italian-language-program/ and scroll down the menu to read about the schedule and the details of the classes.

I would like to thank all of our teachers and our students for this successful year. I wish all of you a joyful 2015, and I welcome all of our new students to the adventure of learning and enjoying the Italian culture together with us!
Buon anno!
Francesca Casazza, ILP Director

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Dalla Cucina di Mia
Cugina Maria Borsa
Shrimp Francese

Active Time: 25 min.

Serves 4

1 pound large shrimp (14-16), peeled and deveined
3 large eggs
1/2 cup finely grated (preferably on a microplane) Parmesan cheese
All-purpose flour for dredging
1/2 cup chicken broth
1/4 cup dry white wine
2 lemons, one juiced and one sliced
1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil, more as needed
1 tablespoon unsalted butter
1/4 cup packed fresh flat-leafed parsley leaves

1. Slice each shrimp along the back to open (butterfly) slightly. Whisk together eggs and cheese in a shallow dish; place flour in another shallow dish. Dredge shrimp lightly in flour then coat completely in egg mixture.

2. Whisk together broth, wine and lemon juice; set aside. Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat. Swirl in oil, then butter. Cook shrimp in two single-layer batches adding more oil between batches as needed, until golden brown, about 11/2 minute on each side; transfer each batch to a plate when done. Pour broth mixture into skillet & cook, swirling skillet, until reduced to a glaze, about one minute. Add radicchio and mushrooms, coat with sauce, and serve.

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Children in Italian class.
In early November 1598, Roman authorities arrested Giacomo, Beatrice, Bernardo, and Lucrezia Cenci for murder. Under interrogation and torture, Lucrezia and Giacomo confessed to the active conspiracy, implicating Beatrice as the prime mover. Beatrice herself refused to confess, insisting on her innocence until the very end, stating that she had no reason to see her father dead. Eventually, her defense attorney, Prospero Farinacci, introduced the question of forcible rape (and incest) as a mitigating circumstance, thus conceding Beatrice's involvement. Indirectly, Beatrice also told the interrogators that her stepmother had urged her to participate in the conspiracy by saying to her, “He will abuse you and rob you of your honor”, putting into question whether Count Cenci had already raped his daughter or had only threatened to do so.

The three adult Cenci were condemned to death, while the younger Bernardo was condemned to watch their execution and was sentenced to row the papal galleys (he was released after a year of this hard labor). The sentence was appealed to Pope Clement VIII (1592-1605), who denied clemency, allegedly to incorporate the Cenci wealth for himself and for the Church.

Giacomo Cenci's execution was most gruesome. First, he was tortured with red-hot pincers, his head was then struck with a mace. After he had died, he was drawn and quartered. The two women, Lucrezia and Beatrice, were then beheaded with a sword on the Castel Sant’Angelo Bridge in the early morning of September 11.

Throughout the ordeal of the execution, Beatrice maintained her composure and calm. One account stated that the only difficulty she had was placing her neck on the execution block in the proper position because of the abundantly generous size of her breasts.

The crowds who had come to witness the execution, as most of Rome had witnessed the trial, were sympathetic to the young Beatrice. They were moved by her young age, beauty, and the perception that her father, an alleged monster of depravity and cruelty, had, indeed, deserved to die. In their view, she may have been legally guilty of the murder, but her act was moral since by it she had ended an evil life.

If one believes that Beatrice was the victim of incest, her act would appeal to many today. She would be considered a poster child for women's rights and equality.

The evidence uncovered by Antonio Bertoletti in the last quarter of the 19th century, however, throws doubt on many elements of the popular and literary legends. Beatrice was older than thought, not a young teenager but a mature woman of 22; she was apparently not as innocent as she appeared as she was having an affair with the married Olimpio Calvetti, one of her father's killers and was probably the mother of Calvetti's illegitimate child. Furthermore, the often-repeated claim that the Pope, wishing to incorporate the family's wealth, acted out of greed in ordering her execution is historical bunk.

Her will, dated about two weeks before the execution, left a fortune of 20,000 scudi, to various charitable and religious organizations along with bequests to servants and relatives, and substantial funds to a friend, Catarina de Santis. The will stated that the funds left to de Santis were to be for the support of a “poor boy” according to verbal instruction she had already given her. The sum left for this purpose was tripled by a codicil to the will signed four days before her death. A reasonable speculation is that this unnamed “poor boy” was Beatrice’s son by Calvetti.

According to some sources the two executioners of the Cencis did not have a long life. One, Master Alessandro Bracca, started to have nightmares right after the executions and died mysteriously thirteen days later, on September 24, 1599. One month after the Cenci’s demise an unknown assailant knifed the other, Master Peppe, to death.

Beatrice Cenci mortal remains are not buried in the chapel of the Cenci Palace, as her father had planned, but in the Church of Saint Pietro in Montorio, a small church built on the site reputed to have been where Saint Peter was crucified. The plain tomb lies near those of Hugh O’Neill and Roderick O'Donnell, leaders of the 1608 Irish revolt against England’s James I.

NOTE
The first person to write about Beatrice Cenci was historian Ludovico Antonio Muratori (1672-1750), who in his twelve-volume work Annali d’Italia (1744-49) provided a fairly accurate but colourful version of the Cenci story. This historical version was followed by a play by a Florentine playwright Vicenzo Pieracci (1760-1824).

Most famously, English poet Percy Bysshe Shelley’s (1792-1822) 1819 play, The Cenci, was inspired by a portrait of Beatrice Cenci (alleged to have been painted by master Guido Reni (1575-1642) but, in fact, was the work of Elisabetta Sirani and by an old manuscript Shelley had unearthed in the archives of the Cenci Palace in Rome. Shelley’s play, a lengthy romanticised poetic account of the tragedy, while containing emotionally charged but powerful verses, has never been successful on the stage as most critics (starting with Shelley’s fellow poet and friend Lord George Byron) have deemed it to be too undramatic and to lack convincing stage appeal. Stendhal (1783-1842) wrote Les Cenci (1839), followed by Giambattista Niccolini’s (1782-1861), Beatrice Cenci (1844), and Francesco Domenico Guerazzi (1804-1873) Beatrice Cenci (1853).

Others who have written about Beatrice Cenci include Charles Dickens’ Pictures of Italy (1846), Nathaniel Hawthorne’s Transformations. (1858), English poet Algernon Charles Swinburne (1837-1909), Alexander Dumas, Sr., and even an amateurish attempt by Alfred Nobel (1833-1896), the wealthy Swedish industrialist whose fortune provides funds for the Nobel prize. In more recent times, the Cenci saga has provided inspiration for plays by French actor-dramatist Antonin Artaud (1896-1948) and Italian Alberto Moravia (1907-1990).

Beatrice Cenci’s tragic life has also been the subject of at least six movies. Mario Caserini made the first in 1903. The last was made in 1969 by Lucio Fulci, a blood and gore director, and was shot on location in the castle where the murder of Beatrice’s father took place.

Luciano Mangiafico is a retired U.S. diplomat and author. During his long career as a diplomat he was posted, among other assignments, as Consul in Milan and Consul General in Palermo.
**Examples**

Cement was used for great public spaces such as public baths, basilicas, amphitheaters, circuses, and fountains.

It was used for aqueducts, of particular importance for the Romans.

Initially, the city of Rome was not so large nor populous. The Romans used the Tiber River for drinking water and for all types of refuse. It could not have been possible for the city to flourish in this situation. The aqueducts were constructed with cement to meticulous specifications, utilizing gravity to provide drinkable water to each citizen in the form of fountains for all the city’s neighborhoods. Many Roman aqueducts are still standing today.

Many people know Hadrian’s Pantheon—the Pantheon that we see today. Cement was used in the seven-foot thick walls and in the dome. The dome of the Pantheon was the largest in the world for over a millennium. This large dome was possible due to lighter types of cement being used as the dome was built upward. The weight of the cement depended on the type and weight of the stones used in the mixture of cement.

Today, thousands of people travel to Italy to admire the Pantheon, the aqueducts, and numerous Roman ruins built during this period of development of cement. These Roman architectural developments influenced architecture for millennia. These arches, domes, and numerous forms of cement are still used widely today.
On Saturday, December 6, I attended the outstanding lecture given by Prof. De Luca, which was sponsored by the Italian Language Program of the ICS. Prof. De Luca’s work and expertise are highly acclaimed, and the classroom was filled to capacity. We learned much about the Greek and Latin languages as well as information on the literature, culture and geography of Greece and Rome.

The lecture began with an overview of the geographical aspects of the Ancient Mediterranean Basin and the surrounding area. We viewed several maps of the Roman Empire, the Mediterranean area, Europe and nearby countries as well as maps of the Regions of Italy. Cicero was a Roman writer who had a great impact on the Latin language, but he had trained in Athens where he perfected his oratorical technique. The Roman poet Virgil was the author of the epic Latin poem, the Aeneid, which used the same meter, the dactylic hexameter, as Greek poet Homer had used in his Iliad and Odyssey. Two of the famous Roman poets who lived during the reign of Augustus were Ovid, author of the Metamorphoses and the Fasti, among other writings, and Horace, well known for his Epistles.

Other important writers and historians during the early Roman Empire were Pliny the Elder, and later, his relative Pliny the Younger.

The lecture traced the history of the Greek and Latin languages. We learned that the Greek alphabet was first documented in 700 BC. Greek was spoken orally before that, but there was no written documentation of it. The Gospels were written in ancient Greek. The Old Testament was written in Aramaic and Hebrew; King James later hired people to translate the Bible from Hebrew to English.

Archaic Latin preexisted classical Latin and began in Latium (today’s Lazio), the region where Rome was established. Archaic Latin survives in the nuances of the dialect of many regions of Italy. Following the archaic Latin classical Latin was spoken in the 150 BC – 200 AD timeframe. Greek informed Latin, and some Greek actually made it into Latin. We were given examples of the influence Latin had on other languages including English and Italian. Many English adjectives are derived from Latin such as the words lunar and annual.

The lecture included information on Greek and Roman Mythology and Poetry. Greek literature preceded Roman literature by approximately 500 years. We learned of some of the literary giants of the Ancient World. The Greek poet Homer was the author of the Iliad and the Odyssey, and these works were actually transmitted orally for quite some time before the invention of the Greek alphabet.

Another ancient Greek poet was Pindar, who lived in the mid 500’s BC. Some of the playwrights of ancient Greece were Euripides and Sophocles (Tragedy) and Aristophanes (Comedy).

Prof. De Luca gave examples of the writings of the literary figures. He read Latin and Greek verses with English and Italian translations, explaining the different metrics that were used such as dactylic hexameter, pentameter, etc.

The presentation included beautiful slides of sculptures such as Venus de Milo, the Roman sculpture Hermes and works by Lisippsus, who was a Greek sculptor who lived in the 4th century BC. We viewed slides of historical structures such as the Doric Temples in Sicily, the Parthenon, and the Coliseum.

We also viewed a picture of the Via Appia, a road outside Rome which was built 2,000 years ago by the Romans and still exists today. Much of the success of the Roman Empire was due to the excellent roads the Romans created, which their armies marched on. The great contributions of the Roman Empire also include the many structures they built. We viewed pictures of Roman aqueducts and bridges in various countries such as Scotland and Iraq.

The lecture ended with Prof. De Luca holding a Q and A session with many interesting questions and excellent discussion. The lecture was fascinating, educational and very enjoyable!

Latium is the region of central western Italy in which the Roman Empire was founded and grew to become the capital city of the Roman Empire.

NOTE: Ms. Landolfi is a member of the ICS who has an interest in Latin and Greek culture.
Antenna Italia

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