



The Italian Cultural Society of Washington D.C.

Preserving and Promoting Italian Culture for All



April 25, 1945
Liberation Day;
Church at
Monte Cassino

Poche Parole

April 2015 Vol. XXXII, No. 8

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 (map on back cover).

April 19: 1:00-Movie of the month will be part two of *The Italian Americans*. Kids' Movie of the Month: *Gli Incredibili (The Incredibles)*. 3:00-the election of board officers. 3:30-a panel discussion of early twentieth century Italian immigrant experience compared with current immigrant experiences.

ICS Award Applications deadline: applications must be postmarked by the second Friday of May (May 8) except for Maria Guerrera Wilmeth Awards, which have a deadline of Friday, May 1.

May 17: 1:00 Movie of the month, TBD. 3:00: The Pugliese Cooking Club will present a program on the culture and cuisine of Puglia, including samples of the food.

June 7, Sunday: SAVE THE DATE: late afternoon Gala Awards Dinner, featuring our guest of honor noted actor Edward Gero (see photo).



www.italianculturalsociety.org



Gianni Brizzi, Ron Cappelletti, Arrigo Mongini and Francesca Casazza after Brizzi's talk on Milano Expo (See page 3).



Silvana DeLuca presented the Luciana Montanari Mendola award to Antonia Stabile at last year's Gala.



Part two of the Italian Americans will be shown at the April social.

President's Message

About sixty of us, members and nonmembers, heard an excellent presentation about Milano and EXPO 2015 by Gianni Brizzi. So many tourists skip Milano for the popular destinations of Florence, Venice, and Rome despite the cultural and now more recently built architectural wonders to be found there. Gianni's talk has opened our eyes to this and made us want to visit EXPO as well. He has given ICS permission to put his Power Point presentation on our website for all our members and friends to enjoy.

At our next social meeting on April 19, expect an entirely different type of program. We have not had a panel discussion as part of a Sunday program that I can remember. It provides an opportunity to understand issues from different perspectives not possible from a single lecturer and in this case allows us to think about current issues involving immigration from examples of the Italian American experience of the early twentieth century that has been the subject of the recent PBS special four-hour series. Read about it and the panelists on page seven.

The other event at the April 19 meeting will be the annual election to fill seats on the ICS board of directors. This year three of the current directors whose terms are expiring (Riccardo Cannavo', Carlo Ellena, and myself) and Allegra Tartaglia, who was appointed to the board some months ago and must be confirmed by election, have indicated they wish to continue as directors, but must still be voted on by the membership. Marie Frances has indicated she does not wish to continue as a director. Another seat on the board is vacant, so we can now vote for as many as two new directors plus four who are already on the board. To date we have four new candidates; Vittorio Felaco, Stefania Amodeo, Tamara D' Addieco, and Viviana Di Sciullo. If anyone else wishes to run contact me at (301-906-1653) or one of our current board members. Give him or her a biography and tell us why you wish to serve on the board. We will send the candidates biographies, pictures, and a ballot to all ICS members. We hope you can participate in this election.

Benvenuti New Members

David Bloch, Lisa and Ariel Goldring, Martha Gudina, and Tiziana Ventimiglia.

Arrigo Mongini

Events of Interest

Through August 2, 2015-Florentine Publishing in the Renaissance; National Gallery
Through May 3, 2015-Piero di Cosimo: The Poetry of Painting in Renaissance Florence; National Gallery
Through May 15-Francesco Nonino: Selected Works (photographs)Monday to Friday from 10am-12noon/2-4pm
Italian Embassy BY APPOINTMENT ONLY:
email reservations requests at iicwashington@esteri.it

The Board of Directors

Arrigo Mongini, President
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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 the newsletter is the 22nd of the month preceding publication of the issue. Please send submissions on the internet to email address: ics.pocheparole@gmail.com or on a computer CD/DVD to: Editor, *Poche Parole*, 4827 Rugby Avenue, Suite 301, Bethesda, MD 20814
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Gianni Brizzi on Milan's EXPO 2015

Gianni Brizzi spoke eloquently about Milano's Expo explaining the storied history of the city from its founding by the Celts in 400B.C. to becoming the capital of the western Roman Empire to its return to prominence by the Visconti and Sforza families. Milan is often referred to as the midwife of the Italian language and it is the city of Leonardo DaVince and Alexander Manzoni.

He described Milan as a global city with its Stock Exchange, Trade Fair, La Scala and the second largest church in the world.

Recently, Milan has become the home of foreign and domestic architects, builders and inventors as witnessed by the many large innovative structures like the Pierrette Tower.

Expo was built for the future. Its theme is Nutrire il pianeta, Energia per la Vita (Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life). Expo will stress sustainability exhibiting a judicious use of space and showing how technology can change food storage, distribution, purchase, and consumption. It will be located near public transportation and when over, the buildings will be used to improve the prospects of a low-income area.

He expects Expo 2015 to draw at least 21 million visitors, house 2,000 events, and have 144 countries participating with 60 pavillions. Expo will run from May 1 to October 31 and he stresses that security will be very tight. -Dennis A. Siracusa



Gianni Brizzi-featured speaker at March social.



A guest buys a raffle ticket from Nick Monaco at the Sunday social.



Part of the large crowd that attended the talk on EXPO Milano.



An aerial view of Expo



Stefania Amodeo, Pina and Vittorio Felaco.



Gianni Brizzi receives a gift from Arrigo Mongini on behalf of the ICS.



Howard and Shirlee Friedenbergs seen talking with Romeo Segnan.

Raffle Winners

At most socials, the ICS sells raffle tickets for prizes donated by sponsors or by the ICS itself. Usually the prizes have an Italian connection. This is our way of promoting Italian products and customs and it is fun. Winners always have a smile on their faces.



Romeo Segnan won chocolate candy.



Romeo Sabitini won a chocolate Easter egg.



Diana Finzi won a chocolate Easter egg.



Jackson Coppley, seen with his wife, Ellen, won candy.



Frank Palumbo won a bottle of red wine.

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Francesca Casazza won a chocolate bunny.

The Italian Cultural Society sponsors an annual competition for the following awards made possible through donations and fund raising events.

ICS Award Applications deadline: applications must be **postmarked by the second Friday of May (May 8) except for Maria Guarrera Wilmeth Awards, which have a deadline of Friday, May 1.**

Applicants should be no more than 25 years of age as of May 1.

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 \$500 award for a high-school age pianist showing promise in piano performance. Examples of recordings must accompany the application and must include one piece for solo piano by Frederick Chopin.
- The Anna Menapace Award: one \$500 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 or the study of art or art history.

Applications

Materials to be included in the application are:

- College transcripts or, for high school awards, high-school transcripts
- Three letters of recommendation (two for the Maria Guarrera Wilmeth awards)
- 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, a portfolio of works, et cetera.

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

For the Maria Guarrera Wilmeth Awards there will also be a special presentation at the Sunday, May 17 meeting of the Italian Cultural Society. The winners will also be invited to the June 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 to these awards, each year the Italian Cultural Society provides the Cesarina Horing Awards to students of Italian at universities in the Washington, DC area: One student each from Georgetown University, The University of Maryland, and Catholic University, each of which has Italian Major programs, will be eligible for awards of \$500; and one student each from George Washington, American, and George Mason Universities, each of which has an Italian Minor program, will be eligible for an award \$300. 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.

Report From the Italian Language Program

Spring Term started Friday, March 27. We have a break after only one week (following Montgomery County Spring Break) and then back for nine more weeks, until mid-June.

This Term, we are pleased to offer *Latin 1*, for 5th-8th graders, Thursdays 5:30-7:00 and *Latin 1 for Adults*, Tuesdays 6:30-8:30, starting April 14, with Prof. Luigi De Luca. More info at <http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/latin-classes/>

Our “evening” students can choose among:

- *Italian through film* (Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, with Silvana De Luca),
- *Food/Wine Pairing* with the last of the 5 classes at I Ricchi Restaurant, (**in English:** Mondays, starting March 30; **in Italian:** Wednesdays, starting May 13) with Carlo Ellena
- *Discover Liguria and its People*, (**in English:** Mondays, starting May 11; **in Italian:** Wednesdays, starting April 1) with Carlo Ellena.
- Beginners 1, Beginners 2, Elementary, Intermediate, Advanced level classes are offered in the evening, and/or during the day.

At lunch time - 1 hour classes, we offer *Italian Culture – Storia 1; Advanced book reading; Intermediate/Advanced conversation*, while *Cooking with Maura*, is on Thursdays 12:30-3:30 or every other Saturday on a drop-in basis <http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/cooking-classes/>

Morning courses continue with the popular *Current Events, Italy Today, Literature; Advanced grammar & conversation* with Simona Gentile and *Pre-Advanced* with Cristiana Fabiani, for whoever is looking for a review of the hardest grammar issues. On our website, you can find the Spring Schedule and register at any time.

We have recommendations if you want to study Italian in Italy (on <http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/study-abroad/>) and if you want to travel with a group, visiting our Italian trusted contacts:

- **TRIP to Liguria: June 14-19 + 19-24 (including Milano Expo 2015)** Other dates are possible. Please see the detailed itinerary on <http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/italian-language-program/course-trip-liguria/>

- **TRIPS to Sicily: June 2-14 and September 1-13** (Course *Discover Sicily* ongoing on Mondays 6:00-8:30, but last class will be Saturday, April 18, from 3:00pm to 5:30pm,
- **TRIP to Lazio, the region around Rome**, to escape from the tourists and immerse yourself into the Italian culture, enjoying Cooking classes and interesting excursions, with La locanda del ruspante at any date! See our website <http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/italian-language-program/course-trip-lazio/>

Finally, for the kids:

Check our website at <http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/italian-language-program/kids-and-teens-courses/> for details on the **Tuesday, Friday and Saturday classes**, and register through the Spring Schedule

You can find all the information and video on our **Summer Camps** at <http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/summer-camp/>

Arts and crafts themed Workshops in Italian for kids 4-11 start Sunday, March 29th, but will be offered also on May 3 and May 31. Parents, this is a good opportunity to run weekend errands, while your kids learn and have fun!! Read all the details at <http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/children-workshops/>

And Teens:

Beginners 1: Thursdays, 5:30-7:00p, or Saturdays

Beginners 2: Fridays 4:00-5:30, or Saturdays at 12:30

Summer Camps for Teens, Week of June 29-July 3rd 10:00-1:00 <http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/ICS-Summercamp-4-teens-wlinks-2015.pdf> and **Latin1 Intensive**, August 19- 28,

Wed-Fri-Mon-Wed-Fri, 10:00-1:00. 15 hour course.

Enjoy Spring!

Francesca Casazza

Director of the Italian Language Program



Celebrating Roma's birthday, Saturday, March 21, at the Italian for Kids class with instructor Clarissa Frigerio

The April Social: The Italian Americans

by Ron Cappelletti



THE ITALIAN AMERICANS DOCUMENTARY: WHAT DOES IT HAVE TO SAY TO US ABOUT CURRENT AMERICAN IMMIGRATION ISSUES?

On Sunday, April 19, from 1pm to 3pm, the Italian Cultural Society will show the second two hour segment of **The Italian Americans** recently aired on public television. After that, we will devote the presentation part of the ICS Social meeting to the election of officers starting at 3pm, and at 3:30 a panel discussion focusing on America's recent history regarding immigration, with an eye towards a better understanding of the issues facing the current set of immigrants as Americans.

Jeff Bieber, Vice President and Executive Producer at WETA, the PBS station in Washington, DC. He is responsible for program development, marketing, and project management of national primetime series' and specials broadcast on PBS. Bieber is the recipient of two national EMMYs, a George Foster Peabody, duPont-Columbia, seven CINE Gold Eagles, and many other awards.

Aldo Bello, is an Emmy award-winning documentary film director and television producer and coowner of Mind & Media, Inc, a strategic communications and media company located in Alexandria, VA. In 1999, Bello created and was co-executive producer of the public television series *Frontiers of Medicine*, a 39-part magazine style series that ran in the top 19 of 20 television markets until 2002. In 2002, Bello partnered with the Dr. Spock Company in the creation of *Parent Sense*, an eight-part television series that was also nationally distributed via public television. Bello also serves on the Leadership Council of the Center for the History of the New America of the University of Maryland.

Bello's latest documentary film is *DREAM: An American Story*, which has already garnered several awards, including two regional Emmy awards, the Marcom Platinum Award, a Summit Emerging Media Leader Award and a Communicator Award of Distinction for the accompanying social media website, as well as a Pixie Platinum Award for the documentary's title sequence. He is also the recipient of the 2012 Americans for Immigrant Justice Humanitarian Award.

Máté Vladár is communications director and webmaster for Casa de Maryland, a nonprofit organization which has as its mission: "To create a more just society by building power and improving the quality of life in low-income immigrant communities." Over the past five years he has worked on many successful progressive campaigns including the Maryland DREAM Act, Marriage Equality, Ending Death Penalty, and increasing the minimum wage. In addition to his work in social media, he has written, filmed and edited numerous TV and radio commercials.

ILP Luncheon at Pizzeria Da Marco

In between the winter and spring sessions, about 90 students of the Language Program with their families or friends gathered at Pizzeria Da Marco, to celebrate the end of the winter term-fund raising event. Da Marco donates 15% of the proceeds to the Language Program. This year we also had a raffle going on among the tables. The drawing took place at the ICS, during the Tuesday morning classes coffee break. The First prize was an ILP gift certificate valued at \$100. The prize was assigned to David Cieslikowski (attending Cristiana's class); the second and third prizes were Italian Cooking Heritage books, won by Katija and Livija Kramer (Italian for kids' students) and Geoff De Mers (Italian through Cinema - Monday student).



Riccardo Cannavo, Antonella Salvatore and Sabrina Munao, three of the instructors in the ILP.



Francesca Casazza, ILP director, explains the rules for the raffle to Simona Gentile, an instructor, and to Holly and Chris Wright.



The tables were full and many were practicing their Italian

Francesca Casazza and Cristiana Fabiani, an instructor, check the raffle list before the drawing.



Francesca and Cristiana assist Francisca Helmer, a student, with the drawing.



Watching the drawing are (l-r) Ellen Copley, Cameron Whitman, Francisca Helmer, David Cieslikowski, Katy Mead, Cristiana Fabiani, Fulvia Battiatà and Antonella Salvatore (in bkgd.).



Francesca presents David with the first prize, a one hundred dollar certificate for a class at the ILP.

Hands on the city (1963)



A film by Francesco Rosi

Francesco Rosi, who died on January 10 of this year at the age of 92 (see the last issue of *Poche Parole*) said pretty early in his career that, for his generation, making movies was going to be tantamount to doing politics because it was going to be necessary to denounce decades of abuses and corruption, all things that never kept him from speaking out!

The darkness that had come over Italy was due to the connivance and complicity of a very corrupt ruling class that allowed so-called public servants to come to compromises. These compromises were equivalent to the splitting up of wealth among the few involved in the complicity of passing the laws and ignoring the will of the people, while the propaganda claimed that it was the only way to create jobs.

Hands on the city is a movie that denounced the way real estate magnates and builders colluded to literally place their hands on the wealth of the cities and the nation in a postwar country thirsty for justice. Thievery and “*malaffare*” made things difficult everywhere, especially in cities like Naples and in the entire South of Italy, where exploitation became the “new normal” way of life.

The history and the evolution of Italy in the aftermath of WWII, as in the case of so many other countries, is one of being grossly vilified by individuals with no scruples who were ready to make the world believe that they alone could guarantee a future to a country that had been among the most devastated by the war. This includes the twenty-year fascist regime that had subjected people to an arrogant and ill-conceived dictatorship.

According to them, progress could only be achieved by making compromises with the most lurid organized crime entities like Mafia, Camorra, N’ndrangheta e Sacra Corona Unita, while the good people looked the other way because they wanted to remain “untouched” or because it was not their fight!

Today, we cannot help but notice a parallel with the kind of denunciation Rosi launches in his movie. The pattern is one and the same: corruption, bad politics and policies in the private sectors.

An intellectual like Rosi was bound to leave an heir, and today, his heir is Roberto Saviano, the writer who is best known abroad for his movie *Gomorra*, a movie that continues the trend of investigative cinema that Rosi and others initiated in the 50s and 60s!

Le mani sulla città (1963)

Un film di Francesco Rosi

by Vittorio Felaco

Francesco Rosi che si è spento il 10 gennaio di quest’anno all’età di 92 anni (vedi l’ultimo numero di *Poche Parole*) abbastanza presto nella sua carriera disse che per la sua generazione fare cinema avrebbe significato “fare politica” nel senso che bisognava denunciare quel buio che da decenni oscurava l’Italia, buio di cui lui personalmente non aveva mai avuto paura. Quel buio era ed è dovuto alle connivenze più malate, come alcuni le hanno definite. Connivenze che portano un paese a scendere a compromessi con gli individui più malsani della società nell’illusione che la creazione di posti di lavoro giustifichi tutto.

Le mani sulla città è un film che denuncia il modo in cui gli immobilizzatori e costruttori mettevano letteralmente le proprie sporche mani sulle città italiane, città vulnerabili ed assetate di giustizia come Napoli, una città difficile da governare e in cui vivere per tutte le ragioni che spesso vengono avanzate precisamente per continuare a mantenerla sotto le sporche mani di interessi illeciti ed egoisti.

La storia e l’evoluzione dell’Italia nel secondo dopoguerra, com’è capitato a tanti altri paesi, è stata grossolanamente vilificata da gente senza scrupoli che alla fine ha preteso di far credere che il progresso si poteva solo ottenere con gli abusi e le connivenze fra prepotenza ed illegalità ampiamente difese e sostenute dalle criminalità organizzate della Mafia, Camorra, N’ndrangheta, Sacra Corona Unita e tutte quelle altre collusioni di gente ignorante che preferivano guardare dall’altra parte pur di non venire personalmente coinvolte in lotte che, dicevano, non riguardavano loro.

Se volgiamo lo sguardo a quello che si è verificato e si verifica attualmente non possiamo che dare un semplice resoconto: il film di Francesco Rosi non rappresenta solo la verità storica del paese, ma dà anche un quadro sinottico fedelissimo a ciò che avviene nel settore pubblico e che è frutto di mala politica e mala gestione.

Non a caso, un’intellettuale come Rosi non poteva non lasciare eredi, ed oggi, l’erede che più gli assomiglia è Roberto Saviano, lo scrittore meglio conosciuto per il film *Gomorra*!

continued on page 10

Hands on the city is a movie that rings true even today. The characters and their style may have changed, but the violence they perpetrate on humanity and the environment is unchanged. The movie remains the masterpiece it has always been. Although the movie was filmed in Naples, the name of the city is mentioned only once precisely to show that the phenomenon is not just a Neapolitan one but also a national problem that Italy shares with the rest of the world.

THE PLOT:

Edoardo Nottola (the character that is brilliantly interpreted by Rod Steiger), is a builder and city council member in the ranks of the right wing party (we are in the days of the millionaire Mayor Achille Lauro). He has the idea of a new project that will add a great deal of real estate to the city and shows his plans to his most faithful accomplices.

Following some construction in a crowded lower class neighborhood, a number of buildings under construction collapse and leave two dead bodies and a child without his legs. The incident, as could be expected causes protests and another member of one of the opposition parties calls for an inquiry on the case to shed light on any violations that might have occurred. The incident is due to the careless and cheap manner in which the builders are conducting the speculation but the issue is not on the agenda and cannot be discussed... regardless of the vehement appeals of the opposition.

Eventually Nottola decides to move his seat in the council from the right wing party to a centrist party and manages to put the whole inquiry on hold. The new political alliance eventually yields results and Nottola ends up becoming the minister of public works and development and will have free rein on all construction in the city. When the film ends, Nottola is the new "assessore all'edilizia" and De Angelis the mayor. They are presiding at the inauguration of the new building project in the presence of a minister of the national government and the local Cardinal.

The conclusion demonstrates precisely how dirty politics, just like drug money, can easily be "recycled" to appear wholesome and saintly... all you have to do is enlist a national, political figure and a "saintly" looking religious figure.

<http://video.repubblica.it/spettacoli-e-cultura/le-mani-sulla-citta-1963-di-francesco-rosi/137672/136215>

Le mani sulla città è un film che torna veritiero, anche se le immagini oggi sembrano sbiadite e opache, forse persino un po' pacchiane, dal momento che siamo passati ad un altro tipo di intermediario ai soliti scandali, il LOBBISTA vestito all'ultima moda! Il film rimane il capolavoro che è sempre stato.

Anche se il film è ambientato a Napoli, il nome della città viene menzionato una sola volta in tutta la pellicola, proprio a dimostrare che la criminalità organizzata non

LA TRAMA:

Edoardo Nottola (personaggio interpretato brillantemente da Rod Steiger), costruttore edile e consigliere comunale nelle file della destra, illustra ai suoi collaboratori il nuovo progetto di espansione edilizia voluto dalla giunta. Quando i lavori dell'impresa di Nottola provocano il crollo di un palazzo in un quartiere popolare, causando la morte di due persone e la perdita delle gambe di un bambino, l'incidente scatena le proteste del consigliere comunale De Vita (Carlo Fermariello) che, a nome dei partiti d'opposizione, chiede l'istituzione di una commissione d'inchiesta che indaghi sulla speculazione edilizia in città.

Nottola chiede allora al suo capogruppo Maglione (Guido Alberti) di dichiarare pericolante la zona dove è avvenuto il crollo per mettere a tacere la cosa e proseguire i lavori. L'ordine di sgombero degli abitanti provoca dure contestazioni e uno scontro acceso tra De Vita e Nottola. Infine Maglione cerca di obbligare Nottola a non candidarsi alle imminenti elezioni adducendo come motivo lo scandalo del crollo, ma il consigliere-costruttore mira in tutti i modi a diventare assessore all'edilizia. Convince alcuni consiglieri ad abbandonare il gruppo di destra e a candidarsi con lui nelle liste di centro guidate dal professor De Angelis (Salvo Randone) che ottiene il successo elettorale e diviene il nuovo sindaco. Maglione e i consiglieri di destra si oppongono allora alla nomina di Nottola ad assessore, ma il nuovo sindaco ottiene la pacificazione tra i due, nonostante la vana opposizione del consigliere De Vita. Il film si conclude con Nottola (assessore all'edilizia) e De Angelis (sindaco) che presiedono all'inaugurazione del nuovo progetto di espansione della città alla presenza di un ministro e di un cardinale.

La conclusione dimostra esattamente come la politica più sporca viene "santamente" riciclata... proprio come il denaro sporco viene santificato passando attraverso le manovre di gente che crede di poter ignorare verità e contabilità pur di soddisfare le apparenze!

<http://video.repubblica.it/spettacoli-e-cultura/le-mani-sulla-citta-1963-di-francesco-rosi/137672/136215>

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0057286/>



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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 website.

www.italianamericancommunications.org



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www.ItalianCulturalSociety.org

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meeting location

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4433 South Park Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815

