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).

May 17: 1:00 Movie of the month, “Salvatore Giuliano” by Francesco Rosi (1961), about the legendary bandito Giuliano, a kind of mid 20th century folk hero in Sicily. Kids' movie: Thumbelina-Pollicina by Don Bluth regista di Fievel sbarca in America) dalla fiaba di Hans Christian Anderson. Music by Barry Manilow. 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: Friendship Heights Village Center SAVE THE DATE: Gala Awards Dinner, 6:30 P.M. featuring our guest of honor, noted actor, Edward Gero (see photo).

www.italianculturalsociety.org

The Italian ambassador, Claudio Bisogniero, presented the Urbina Press Award to Gwen Ifill of PBS. (see page 5)

The panelists who discussed the recent series, “Italian Americans”, are Aldo Bello, Máté Vladár and Jeff Bieber. (see page 4)

Our invitation to the June Gala. (see page 2)
Celebrating the 750th Anniversary of Dante Alighieri’s Birth and 62 Years of the Italian Cultural Society of Washington, D.C.

Evening Highlights:
- Silent Auction to benefit the “Maria G. Wilmeth Scholarship”
- Honorary Guest Edward Gero
- Award Ceremony for Scholarship Recipients

Please fill out the following information and return this portion with appropriate payment to the Italian Cultural Society.

No. of attendees ________ at $100/person. Total payment for dinner $_________. Donation towards scholarship fund or language and cultural programs $__________

Contact Information: Name (print)___________________Phone____________________Email____________________

Names of additional guests:___________________________________________________________________________

Italian Cultural Society, 4827 Rugby Avenue, Suite 301, Bethesda, MD 20814. Call (301) 215- 7855 or go online at www.italianculturalsociety.org for Credit Card Payments. Payment and reservations due by Wednesday, June 3rd, ICS will send appropriate tax exemptions documentation. For more information contact rsvp@italianculturalsociety.org

Edward Gero
American Stage Actor
Performing Dante Alighieri’s works
President’s Message

The annual election of ICS board members took place at our April 19 social, and the five winners are: Stefania Amodeo and Tamara D’Addieco as well as the three current board members whose terms are expiring and who opted to run again: Carlo Ellena, Riccardo Cannavò and yours truly. Congratulations to the new board members. Their short biographies can be found on page 4.

After the election, our panel took up the discussion of immigration, comparing current immigration issues in the U.S. to the experience of early twentieth century immigrants from Italy. The panelists, Aldo Bello, Jeff Bieber, and Maté Vládár agreed that illegal immigration has become a problem, but until 1956 there was almost no legal restriction on crossing our southern border. It was a natural process, with people doing what today would be against the law. Some in the audience placed emphasis on the need to stop illegal immigration and send back the undocumented. The panel agreed that while we should not permit violating the law, reforms are needed to recognize the new reality. Many of our legislators and their constituents want to adhere strictly to the current regulations, partly in fear of altering the nature of US society. “The law is messy” to quote one panelist. We thank our distinguished panelists and our moderator, Ron Cappelletti, for this enlightening program.

For our next social, on May 17, Luigi De Luca and some of his Pugliese colleagues will present a program on the culture, food and wines of Puglia, including lectures, a cooking demo, and tastings (more on page 11). Don’t miss this.

Welcome New Members

Barbara Belledonne
Maria Berg
Barbara Bickham
Jacqueline Breda
Rita Coyne
Delbert and Carmen Fitchett

Julien Holbrook
Christopher Holly
Kevin Jakel and Yana Kravtsova
and their daughters Sophia and Alysa
John Troha and Carol Tutera

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 10 a.m.-12 noon/2-4 p.m Italian Embassy BY APPOINTMENT ONLY: email reservations requests at iicwashington@esteri.it

May 17, 6:00PM-Cineforum Italiano: La Sedia Della Felicita (The Chair of Happiness) 595 1/2 Third St., N.W.

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ICS Election of Officers

This year, we had two vacancies on the board of directors and three members who are up for reelection. Notices were sent to the membership and the election of officers was the first order of business at the April social. Elected were Stefania Amodeo and Tamara D’Addieco and reelected were Arrigo Mongini, Riccardo Cannavo and Carlo Ellena. The new officers will serve a three year term.

Deno Reed, Arrigo Mongini and Ron Cappelletti go over the election results.

Stefania Amodeo holds a laurea from the University of Genoa, Italy, in Lettere e Filosofia with a thesis in medieval history. She did graduate work in Belgium at the University of Louvain and at Harvard University from which she received an M.A. in Italian Literature.

She has taught at Wellesley College and at Harvard University as a teaching fellow. Her main research interest is in language pedagogy and the use of computer technology in teaching foreign languages. She recently developed an Italian language course centered on the history and cultural importance of food in Italy. She has taught at the University of Maryland since 1982.

Tamara D’Addieco is a native of Bologna, Italy (in the region of Emilia-Romagna) and a graduate of the Universita’ di Bologna (Alma Mater Studiorum). Her enthusiasm for learning languages began in high school, as the curriculum put a strong emphasis on the study of language and literature. Among the languages she studied then were Spanish, English, French, and German.

While her professional career went in another direction – nursing with a specialization in cardiac surgery, her interest in languages remained strong. She came to Washington, D.C. initially to follow the love of her life in 2009. She left the D.C. area for a period of time, but upon her return she began teaching Italian to children and adolescents in the classroom and through private tutoring.

She has lived in South America and London, and she likes studying languages (Spanish, English, French), cooking, traveling, and spending time outdoors.

Marie Frances watches as Rosalie Di Nicola Sanchez proudly casts her vote.
The April Social: A panel discussion of immigration

Three distinguished guests, (left to right in the photo) Aldo Bello, coowner of Mind & Media, Inc. and producer of Dream, An American Story, Jeff Bieber, VP and Executive Producer at WETA and a producer of The Italian Americans with John Maggio, and Máté Vladár of Casa de Maryland, an activist organization that successfully worked to promote the Maryland Dream Act, chaired a panel moderated by ICS VP Ron Cappelletti. The panel was asked to use The Italian Americans, shown in two segments as the ICS film of the month, as a springboard to discuss current immigration problems in the US.

Each presented various aspects of their involvement with the issue, some history, and responded to questions from the audience. In particular, it was pointed out that the several public TV immigrant documentaries (Latino Americans, Italian Americans, Irish Americans, Jewish Americans, and an upcoming documentary series on Asian Americans) have the aim of providing the public with an important segment of American history not often covered in our formal education system. Mentioned were not only the immense positive contributions of immigrants to American life, but also darker aspects, such as the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the Immigration Act of 1924, which imposed “racial” quotas, heavily reducing subsequent Italian and Jewish immigration to the US.

The issue of the current undocumented immigration problem in the US elicited (as expected) the most intense response from the audience, and the discussion was framed in terms of the forces attracting immigrants here and others pushing them to leave their homelands. At this point the issue of migrants trying to reach Europe by sea resulting in recent tragic losses came up. Remarks from the audience pointed out that when powerful forces such as hunger or displacement by war/violence, drive mass migrations, changes in law may not be enough to address the problem, and larger-scale humanitarian efforts, such as proposed recently by Pope Francis must be invoked. In the subsequent socializing over refreshments, many members expressed appreciation for the panel discussion, finding it useful in becoming informed about current issues.

-Ron Cappelletti, VP
The Raffle Winners

Carmen Fitchett buys raffle tickets from Nick Monaco at the door.

Marie Frances wins a box of dolci.

Lucio D’Andrea wins an Italian recipe book.

Vittorio Felaco wins an ICS tee shirt.

Cristobal Duarte wins a chocolate assortment.

G Richard Reed wins a bottle of red wine.

THE URBINO PRESS AWARD to Gwen Ifill

The Urbino Press Award, now in its tenth edition, has become a tradition in Washington’s diplomatic and journalistic life since it was first presented in 2006 at the Embassy of Italy in Washington D.C. The prize is assigned every year in recognition of excellence in journalism to American reporters who, through their commitment and daily work, have the ability to inform millions of people. Past recipients of the award include Diane Rehm (2006), Michael Weisskopf (2007), Martha Raddatz (2008), Thomas Friedman (2009), David Ignatius (2010), Helene Cooper (2011), Sebastian Rotella (2012), Wolf Blitzer (2013) and Maria Bartiromo (2014).

The winner of the Urbino Press Award is formally announced every year in April at the Embassy of Italy in Washington D.C. The Ambassador of Italy to the United States holds a brief address to welcome the audience and announce the winner. The Ambassador’s address is followed by the winner’s acceptance speech.

The prize itself is awarded at the Palazzo Ducale in the City of Urbino in June. The winner travels to Urbino to participate in a ceremony and then holds a “Lectio Magistralis” at the Palazzo Ducale. The City of Urbino, which during the Renaissance gave life to one of the most enlightened courts of Europe, symbolically reinstates its court, once enriched by geniuses like Baldassarre Castiglione and Torquato Tasso, with the voice and experience of today’s reporters, the outstanding interpreters of the events that are changing our world.

Gwen Ifill is moderator and managing editor of “Washington Week” and coanchor and managing editor of the “PBS NewsHour.”
La mia Otranto

Per millenni Otranto era esistita, sulla costa della Puglia, accarezzata dal mare Adriatico. Fondata dai Greci all’estremo lembo orientale d’Italia, i cognomi della sua gente rievocano la loro origine Greca, Paiano, Macri’, Pantaleone…e un richiamo alla Grecia classica risuona nel suo dialetto nelle voci dei suoi abitanti, la cui vita dipende da quello che il mare puo’ rendere e dal frutto dell’olivo che e’ arrivato coi suoi colonizzatori. Il flusso di venti leggeri trasforma i campi di alberi d’olivo in onde fluide argentate, che fanno diventare una gita in bicicletta fra le strade di campagna una grande affermazione della sensualita’ della nostra esistenza.

Da ragazzino correvo nelle sue strade in un labirinto di piccole case bianche tenute insieme dalle aspirazioni dei suoi abitanti. Ho imparato le storie del suo palazzo piu’ vecchio, la cattedrale, di circa 1,000 anni, costruita su una struttura preesistente. Da lì’ andavo su al piano principale e guardavo attonito mentre calpestavo mostri di ogni tipo, alcuni con piu’ teste, altri con teste su corpi chimerici di specie diverse, ed ancora altri raffigurati nell’atto di ingoiare delle bestie feroci. Tutto questo e’ sul mosaico pavimentale, tessellato con pietre colori diversi provenienti da posti diversi e lontani, messe insieme da Pantaleone, un Monaco Basiliano che ha costruito il mosaico nel 12mo secolo.

La mattina del 28 di Luglio del 1480 i cittadini di Otranto sono scacciati dalla improvvisa apparizione dal mare di una terrificante flotta di centinaia di navi che portano circa 18.000 uomini ossia tre volte il numero degli abitanti di Otranto. Provengono dalla Turchia ed il loro comandante, Akmeth Pascià, e’ al servizio del Sultano Muhammed II. I Turchi pretendono l’arresa, ma i cittadini si rifiutano. L’undici di Agosto i Turchi entrano nella città’ e incominciano un massacro terribile dei suoi cittadini. In cattedrale i Turchi ammazzano l’Arcivescovo Stefano Pendinelli e prendono 800 degli uomini piu’ forti e li portano sul colle della Minerva, dove gli intimano di convertirsi all’Islamismo. Antonio Primaldo, un sarto, aveva pregato i suoi concittadini di avere fede in Cristo, ed essere pronti a morire mille volte per Lui. Il primo miracolo si verifica quando il corpo decapitato di Primaldo rimane in piedi fino a quando tutti gli 800 sono stati uccisi. Dopo di aver visto questo miracolo il boia Turco si pente e si converte al Cristianesimo. Per questo motivo verra’ poi impalato dai Turchi.

I Turchi si stabiliscono in Otranto per un anno finche’ il principe Alfonso d’Aragona arriva ad Otranto e finalmente libera la citta’. Alfonso trova i corpi dei martiri ancora intatti sulla collina e senza alcun segno di decomposizione dopo ben un anno. Il principe li porta in cattedrale dove le loro ossa sono tuttora tenute sotto vetro in grandi armadi dietro l’altare della cattedrale per l’osservazione di tutti i fedeli.

Due anni fa i martiri sono stati beatificati eppoi canonizzati. E cosi’ e’ stato che una citta’ di 5,000 abitanti ha ben 800 santi!

Vado a trovarLi ogni anno!

My Otranto by Luigi M. De Luca

For millennia Otranto has been there, on the Apulian sea coast, strokes by the Adriatic. First settled by the Greeks on the jetty of land most eastward of the Italian peninsula, the last names of its people echo their Greek descent, Paiano, Macri’, Pantaleone…and a call to ancient Greece resounds in its dialect in the voices of its passionate inhabitants, whose lives depend on the gifts of the sea and on the fruit of the olive trees transplanted with its colonists. The flow of gentle winds transforms the field of olive trees into waves of glistening fluid silver, which makes a bike ride among the side roads on the its outskirts a powerful affirmation of our sensual existence.

As a little boy I used to run in its streets amongst a labyrinth of little whitewashed stone houses connected by the aspirations of its inhabitants. I learned the stories of its main building, the Cathedral, now some 1,000 years old, built on top of a preexisting structure. Thence, I used to go up to the main floor and look in astonishment as I stepped on monsters of all kinds, some multi-headed, others with chimeric bodies of different species, still others caught in the act of swallowing ferocious beasts. All of this is on the Cathedral’s pavement mosaic, tessellated with precious multicolored stones from distant sites by Panthaleon, a Basilian monk who constructed the mosaic in the 12th century.

On the morning of July 28,1480 the citizens of Otranto are shocked by the appearance from the sea of a terrifying fleet of hundreds of ships with some 18,000 men, three times the number of inhabitants of Otranto. They come from Turkey and their commandant, Akmeth Pascià, reports to Sultan Muhammed II. The Turks demand surrender but the citizenry refuses. On August 11 the Turks enter the city and subject its inhabitants to a massacre. In the cathedral they kill Archbishop Stefano Pendinelli and take 800 able-bodied men to a nearby hill where they ask them to convert to Islam. Antonio Primaldo, a tailor, had incited his fellow citizens to have faith in Christ, and be ready to die a thousand times over for him. The first miracle takes place when Primaldo’s decapitated body remains upright until the last martyr is killed. After witnessing this miracle the executioner repents and converts to Christendom. For this reason he is impaled by the Turks.

The Turks install themselves in Otranto for a year until Prince Alfonso of Aragona comes to Otranto and finally liberates the city. He finds the bodies of the martyrs still intact and without any sign of decomposition after a year. The prince takes them to the cathedral where their bones are now kept under glass in large cabinets behind the altar for all to see.

Just two years ago the martyrs were beatified and eventually canonized. And so it happened that a city of 5,000 inhabitants has 800 saints!
Ciao, Marie Frances

Marie Frances is moving to Florida and will no longer be on the board. She has led an eventful life and has contributed much to the ICS because of her contacts with people in the entertainment business. One look at her biography and you may wonder how she did so much in so little time. She will be remembered for her generosity and spirit. We wish her well. Listed below are just some of the things she has done. As an independent producer she was able to travel around the world finding interesting and unusual stories for "That's Incredible!" and "Ripley's Believe It or Not."

She was the Director of National Drug Abuse Prevention Program for White House under President Nixon. SAOFDAP Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention. She was in the New Executive offices and gave press conferences for the media.

She put on USO shows for the boys going to Viet Nam and those returning. She used her modeling school girls to put on the show.

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

ICS Award Applications deadline: Post-Marked on the 2nd 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 your 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, where appropriate, high-school transcripts
- 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 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 of all award winners 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.

For the Maria Guarrera Wilmeth Awards there will also be a special presentation immediately prior to 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
Thank you to all the participants of the March 28 event at Pizzeria Da Marco, where we celebrated the end of Winter Term and welcomed spring. For this occasion, Pizzeria Da Marco donated 15% of the proceeds to the Italian Language Program.

Some of us enjoyed Spring Break, but the office stayed open for some of our enthusiastic students who didn’t need any time off from our courses!

Spring Term started with Session 1 with 32 courses. Session 2 (mainly morning) will start May 12, with 13 or 14 more courses, including FOOD/WINE PAIRING, on Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m., a five-week course that will include a sophisticated food and wine tasting at the restaurant I Ricchi, to conclude the learning adventure. DISCOVER LIGURIA AND ITS PEOPLE, will also start on Monday, May 11, 6:30-8:30 p.m., a special five-week course, taught in English this time, by Carlo Ellena, who will lead you in the Discovery of his and my region, a 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.

I hope to meet there whoever will join the fantastic trip that we and Beautiful Liguria are organizing for June 14—24. You will discover the perfect place to live the Italian “dolce vita” and immerse yourself with its untouched traditions, discover the tastes of its cuisine and meet real locals at their house in historic Genoa, on the Portofino Mountain and in the Cinque Terre. The trip will include a guided tour to Expo Milan. I am looking forward to going there, after learning about it and presenting a lecture on “Milano and Expo 2015” at the American University, last April 16.

The course “Discover Sicily: history, culture, food and wine on the island of sun,” saw a full classroom on the last day, and a celebration with Sicilian focaccia, wine and other traditional food. So far six people have joined the group, which will be welcomed and spoiled by the Baron Davide Pirreria Rosso di Cerami on June 3 in Catania Airport, to start the Sicilian adventure. You are still on time to join the June trip or the September one!

We are working now on the Summer Schedule: we will have classes for beginner, intermediate and advanced students. Conversation, history and good cinema will help you practice your comprehension and speaking skills.

Un caro saluto,
Francesca Casazza

Riccardo Cannavo, a native Sicilian, teaches the course “Discover Sicily.”
Benvenuti a Tutti!

Maurizio invites you to visit his attractive Italian gourmet market for the finest artisanal and specialty Italian food products. Upholding family traditions, we have a variety of in-house prepared entrées, daily made mozzarella and soups, burrata, deli meats, cheeses, panini, calzoni, wines, and imported beers. We offer fabulous platters and catering service. And now in time for the grilling season, our homemade Italian sausage is excellent on the grill! (mild, spicy, fennel and red wine, roasted garlic, broccoli rabe, or sharp provolone and parsley.)

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http://gemellisitalianmarket.com/

ICS Members – be sure to check our sponsor notice on the ICS website for our flyer offering a 10% discount on your total shopping bill:
http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/spon/

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 anytime at Pino Cicala’s website.
www.italianamericancommunications.org

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THE CULTURE, THE FOOD, AND THE WINES OF

PUGLIA

Program for our Sunday afternoon ICS social at 3 p.m. on May 17

Come and join us at the Friendship heights Village Center for a cultural, gastronomic, enological tour of this fascinating region.

The subject for our social on Sunday, May 17 will be the region of Puglia in the Southeastern portion of Italy. In particular we will present some of the cultural background of this region with emphasis on regional food. We will demonstrate how to prepare some of the characteristic foods, such as orecchiette con cime di rapa (Linda Reck/Antonella Salvatore), taralli (Ron Cappelletti), sausage and peppers (Lucy Falcone Hamachek/Diane Colasanto), giuncata cheese (Luigi De Luca) and we will talk about the most well known wines of the region (Richard Marcis).

We will also talk on Puglia’s beautiful beaches, its monuments and its history. Speakers will include Luigi M. De Luca, a native of Maglie (Lecce), Lucy Falcone Hamachek, whose family comes from Roseto Valfortore (Foggia); Diane Colasanto, whose family comes from Terlizzi; Ron Cappelletti whose family is from Celenza Valfortore and San Marco La Catola and Antonella Salvatore from Barletta. Linda Reck is an excellent cook who has offered to help.