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).

September 20: 1:00 Movie of the month, *Pranzo di Ferragosto*. Kids’ movie, *Uno Zoo in Fuga*; 3:00 Wine tasting by Don Ciccio e Figlio with 8-10 traditional Italian drinks-RESERVE your place soon. See more information on page 3.

October 25: (*Note-it’s the last Sunday in October*) 3:00 A special tribute to Dante Alighieri featuring Professors Giuseppe Falvo and Frank Ambrosio,

(www.italianculturalsociety.org)

At EU Day at the Italian Embassy in May, Thomas Schmitt and Laura Curl (r) seen with embassy entertainer, assisted the ICS; Richard Marcis spoke about wines at the Pugilese Cooking Club May Social; Edward Gero who spoke at the June gala, is seen with Olga Mancuso, historian and events organizer. Above (left), Gero does a reading from *La Divina Comedia*. 
President’s Message

I hope everyone has had a great summer and that you are ready for another season with us at the Italian Cultural Society. Many of you have become members in order to benefit from the lower costs for courses you take at our Italian Language Program, but I hope that you also come to our social meetings on the third Sunday of every month, and to our other events.

In June we topped off the season with a very well attended scholarship awards gala, a very successful fund raiser with over 100 people, in honor of the 650th anniversary of Dante Alighieri’s birth. Read about the students who received scholarship awards on (page 6). We will probably have more on Dante later this year.

In May we celebrated the culture and the food and wine of Puglia, a region of Italy that many consider to be the latest touristic hot spot. Some of our Pugliese members and friends are good cooks, wine connoisseurs and cultural scholars. We will try to sponsor at least one more such regional celebration this season, including food tasting. As you know, Italy was unified as a country only 154 years ago and there are still strong regional differences in its food, wine and cultural features than what we see in the USA.

In our September social meeting (page 3), we will feature traditional Italian drinks across the full spectrum of alcohol content. We will start from the “analcolici” (no alcohol), such as Latte di Mandorla, Amarena, and Chinotto, all the way up to the spirit drinks like limoncello and Amaro delle Sirene (so romantic sounding). Adam Benavides, from the Don Ciccio e Figli distillery, will present these 30% alcohol drinks products which are produced in DC. You will have a taste of nine of them, including a mysterious drink that Olga Mancuso is bringing back from Sicily. Be sure to make a reservation. We’ll see you there!

Arrigo Mongini

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

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Events of Interest

September 27-1:00-AMHS Lunch/
Presentation: “Cuore Napoletano” The Story of the Neapolitan Songs-Casa Italiana 595 ½
Third Street NW

Through October 4-Recent Acquisitions of
Italian Renaissance Prints: Ideas Made Flesh, National Gallery of Art.
Italian Cultural Society of Washington DC

Traditional Drinks of Italy

a tasting

Sunday, September 20, 3 PM

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

Discover and taste some traditional drinks, ranging from non-alcoholic “summer drinks” like Amarena, Tamarindo, Latte di Mandlerla, and Chinotto to mildly alcoholic drinks like, Cynar, Campari, and Punt e Mes to strong spirit drinks like Limoncello, Amaro delle Sirene, and Grappa. You will walk away with recipes for Spritz, and Negroni or Limoncello

Meet our special guest Adam Benavides, of the DC distillery, Don Ciccio e Figli, featuring old recipes from the Amalfi Coast.

After the tasting our social hour will include light refreshments.

ALL ARE WELCOME, members and non-members alike.

To reserve your place and pay, either by check or credit card, see below. The deadline is September 10.

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1: TO RESERVE AND PAY BY CHECK download and fill out this form and return it with appropriate payment to Italian Cultural Society, 4827 Rugby Ave., Suite 301, Bethesda, MD 20814 by Sept. 10.

Number of members______at $5.00 each.   Number of non-members______at $10 each.   Donation________

Total payment enclosed $______.

Name(print)_________________________Phone______________Email_____________________________________

Names of additional guests__________________________________________________________________________

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2: TO RESERVE AND PAY BY CREDIT CARD go to www.ItalianCulturalSociety.org/traditionaldrinksofItaly, enter the information on the electronic form, click on SUBMIT, and then on PAY NOW
On May 17, the Italian Cultural Society hosted an event that we think should turn into a series of similar events. Proposed by Luigi De Luca in connection with a group of like-minded Puglia food enthusiasts that has been getting together informally to cook and share a meal, a meeting featuring the foods of Puglia was organized. As we all know, Italy is justifiably famous for its wonderfully distinct regional foods. Most Americans are familiar with southern Italian foods which are often from the Campania region around Naples or from Sicily that were brought to this country by the many immigrants from those parts: pizzas and pastas, soups and greens, sweets, etc. Recently the American palate has been treated to northern Italian foods appearing in a new generation of restaurants over the last 20 to 30 years. Puglia runs NW to SE and is so long and narrow that it has several distinct regional dialects and cultures. From the very southern tip there arises the Salento, the “high heel” of the boot, with its under-layer of Greek culture both from ancient and Byzantine times. Further northwest there is the Murge where the geography favors an agriculture of durum wheat from which come many wonderful pastas and breads. To the east of the Murge there is the coastal area including Bari and other cities with architecture strongly influenced by the Norman conquest of the late middle ages. Up around the “tavoliere” surrounding Foggia the dialects change again, with some influence from nearby Campania and from Molise and Abruzzo down from which each year the shepherds would bring their flocks for the winter. And all of these areas have their own distinctive foods, wines and cheeses.

Presentations were made by Luigi De Luca, from Maglie in the Salento, Lucy Hamachek, whose family came from Rosetto Val Fortore, to the west of Foggia, and Ron Cappelletti whose people came from the villages of San Marco La Catola and Celenza Val Fortore near the border with Molise. Also participating in the preparation of the foods for the event were Linda Reck, friend of Lucy, Diane Colasanto, whose family came from Terlizzi near Bari, and Antonella Salvatore who is originally from Barletta on the coast above Bari. Luigi gave a bit of the history of the region, Lucy talked about the food traditions featuring little meat and many vegetables, and Ron showed a video which combined a “saluti da San Marco” along with a demonstration about how to make taralli. Talking about the wines of the region (samples of which were available for the audience) was wine-enthusiast Richard Marcis from SMATCH. Luigi prepared a soft cheese, giuncata (junket); Linda and Antonella made fresh hand-made orecchiette pasta from durum wheat flour, cooked it, dressing it with cime di rape (broccoli rabe) sautéed in garlic-flavored olive oil with a bit of hot pepper. Lucy and Diane prepared sweet Italian sausage with peppers, and Ron distributed fennel-flavored taralli which he had boiled and baked earlier along with store-bought taralli. An unexpected contribution came from Roger McClure who had prepared bruschette. After the presentations and the buffet, people mingled happily with the cooks to chat about recipes and to learn more about Puglia.
The European Union Embassies and the EU Delegation to the United States opened their doors to the public for the annual EU Embassies’ Open House: a day of family fun, food, culture and more. The event offered visitors a rare look inside the embassies and provided a unique opportunity for them to experience the cultural heritage and national traditions of the 28 member countries. The ICS exhibit focused on introducing Italian culture to children of all ages. Stefania Amedeo and two of her students from the University of Maryland had brochures representing the Italian programs at UMD.

Representing the ICS at EU Day were Luigi De Luca, Stefania Amodeo and Arrigo Mongini. Tamara D’Addieco and students did craft activities related to the theme of Expo2015. They recreated a collage dell’Arcimboldo by using pictures of fruit and vegetables taken from newspapers. Also, they were taught the honey bee cycle and were made to reproduce one of the phases of the cycle. The ICS was well represented.
The June Gala and Awards Dinner

Hors d’oeuvres and drinks were served on the terrace.

Professor Judith Hallett and Eileen Lavine

Guests: Gerke Shuster, Jackson Coppley, Katy Mead and Cameron Whitman being served.

Renata Shaw, Diane Colasanto and her mother Mrs.Rose Colasanto.

John Troka and Carol Tutera

Edward Gero (honored guest) and his wife, Marijke Ebbing. 
The Auction Winners

Cristiana Fabiani - Puglia apartment
Francesca Casazza - Gift certificates to the A Mano store, Barcelona Restaurant, and Silver Diner
Jack Rose - Deruta plate and other items from the Via Umbria store
Alessandra DeSantis - National Philharmonic season tickets
Bob Baldassari - Johnnie Walker Scotch whiskey
Katy Mead - Caselli plate
Vittorio Felaco - “Al Club” oil on canvas by Sofia Caligiuri
Maria d’Andrea - Maura’s cooking class and one case of wine from Gabrielle Rausse Winery
Cameron Whitman - Cafe Milano gift certificate
Monica DeVay - Gift certificate to Eyma Salon & Spa
Marina Garzolini - Handpainted ceramic vase, gift certificate to Silver Diner, and Venezia apartment
Bill Menard - Seven days at San Remo apartment
Rina Pennachia - Two photographs by David Cieslikowski

Edward Gero, American stage actor, did readings from “La Divina Commedia” assisted by Vittorio Felaco and the Italian Embassy’s Consigliere Franco Impala. Maria G. Wilmeth Award for excellence in the study of Italian was presented to Yasna Khademian (vocalist), Duke Ellington School of the Arts, and Valencia Baldwin (white dress), Springbrook High School, by Deborah Campos.
(Left) Catholic University student Jiashu Song received the Montanari-Mendola Award for excellence in piano performance. (Right) Gabriella Rose Devlin Capizzi, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School, also received a Montanari-Mendola Award, for encouragement in piano performance. With Gabriella are Joseph Capizzi and Silvana De Luca.
(Below) Olga Mancuso with Catherine Vassaux, of American University, received The Patricia Segnan Award for excellence in art history.
This summer, our instructors Carlo Ellena and Federica Deigan Brunori, enjoyed teaching their classes every morning and every evening, until the end of July. Federica just joined our team. She graduated with a laurea in Foreign Languages (English, Russian, French) from the University of Rome La Sapienza, holds a professional diploma from Rome’s School for Interpreters, and a Ph.D. in Italian Studies from Johns Hopkins University. She has been teaching Italian language, literature, and culture (at Hopkins, at the University of Pennsylvania, and currently at the University of Maryland) for over 20 years. Tamara D’Addieco continued her tutorial (a private course to one of our students) over the summer through Skype. Yes, you can also keep learning from your favorite teacher through the summer, even if we are in Italy!

Four weeks of Summer Camps (June 15th, 22nd, 29th and August 24th) brought a lot of joy to our school! A special thanks to the instructors Paola Corneo, Antonella Salvatore, and especially to Clarissa Frigerio, who unfortunately had to return to Italy after a wonderful year with us and our youngest students. Our best wishes for her future career! We will have the pleasure to introduce you to new instructors equally prepared and motivated this fall. Thanks also to our new ICS Board Member Tamara D’Addieco, who supervises all the ICS kids activities and provides a big help to me with the Summer Camps and kids courses’ planning. Now we are looking forward to seeing all of our students, kids and adults, and welcoming the new ones. So, let me talk about what else is new!

We will continue the formula of “class + trip,” created for travelers who want more than a basic tourist experience, and want an authentic immersion into real Italian life. Through our selected local contacts, participants will enjoy local traditions, history and natural interests of Italy’s various regions. Our instructor, Silvana De Luca, from Piemonte, will teach about her region, in the class Discover Piedmont: a region of history, culture & enjoyment. For the optional subsequent trip, participants will be in the hands of our contact, the agency Beautiful Liguria, who, from the adjacent region, has planned a trip in the name of culture, food and wine. More details will follow on our website. Soon you will be able to read the comments of our students/members who traveled in Liguria and Sicily.

Please know that you can plan a trip to Lazio, Sicily, Liguria and Piedmont through our contacts at any time. http://www.italianculturalsoctry.org/coursesstrips/ I also recommend a visit to EXPO Milano. I loved it! You have time until October 30th, or you can just explore their official website http://www.expo2015.org/ to get an idea of the theme and the architecture of the pavilions.

Back to our local reality, we will have more new cultural classes for advanced levels, like Dante e la Divina Comedia, in celebration of the 750th birthday of the father of the Italian Language, Itinerari Italiani, a tour in the Italy of yesterday, today and tomorrow. Virtual Tour this term will bring you to the land of Andrea Palladio: Venezia, Vicenza and villas of the Veneto. You will learn of Palladio’s influence on American architecture.

Again, we will offer Latin I, and then Latin II for the students who attended Latin I. Professor Luigi De Luca is especially proud of the group of 5th and 7th graders who enthusiastically attended Latin I last Spring. http://www.italianculturalsoctry.org/latin-classes/

Last but not least, our cooking classes will be offered in the evening, morning and every other Saturday, on a drop in basis. Maura will share the concepts of simple, yet sophisticated, Italian cuisine while teaching students how to prepare a gourmet meal in the comfort of her own home. http://www.italianculturalsoctry.org/cooking-classes/

You can find the Fall schedule on http://www.italianculturalsoctry.org/italian-language-program/fall-schedule-2015/. The Italian Language Program is ready to welcome everybody to a new year of immersion in the most authentic aspects of our language and culture!- Francesca Casazza

Kids really enjoying the ILP summer camp.
**Movies of the Month**

### Pranzo di Ferragosto

Manteniamo vivo il ricordo del tradizionale pranzo di ferragosto invitandovi a gustare il film di Gianni di Gregorio, una commedia e drammata italiano del 2008. Partecipate alla festa di mezz’estate con Gianni, un figlio di mezz’eta’ con madre novantenne, mentre cerca di trovare una soluzione ai suoi innumerevoli debiti e nello stesso tempo gestire, intrattenere, accontentare e nutrire quattro vivaci vecchiette in una Roma poco nota ai turisti.

“Mid-August lunch” by movie director Gianni di Gregorio, an Italian family drama and comedy, was described as “an utterly charming tale of good food, feisty ladies, and unlikely friendship during a very roman holiday”. Participate with Gianni, the son of a 92 years old lady, in finding a solution to deal with his numerous debts while entertaining and feeding four feisty old ladies in a Rome unknown to tourists.

### Uno Zoo in Fuga

"The Wild": when an outrageous band of furry friends escape from the city zoo, they discover that New York City is the biggest, craziest jungle of all.

The kid’s movie for our social meeting of September will be "Uno zoo in fuga" ("The Wild": when an outrageous band of furry friends escape from the city zoo, they discover that New York City is the biggest, craziest jungle of all.)

Un gruppo di originali amici animali, scappando dallo zoo, scoprirà che non esiste giungla più pazza della città di New York.

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**SPECIAL LIMONCELLO SILENT AUCTION**

At the ICS September 20th Social we will be treated to a presentation by Adam Benavides, with tastings of limoncello and other liquors produced at the DC distillery, Don Ciccio e Figli. ICS has acquired two bottles of their tasty limoncello which will be offered in a silent auction at the Social. Bidding will start at $35. Payment by cash or check only.

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**CONSULAR SECTION**
ITALIAN EMBASSY
3000 Whitehaven Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20008
Information: 202-612-4400
Serves residents of Washington, DC Montgomery & Prince George’s Counties Maryland, Arlington & Fairfax Counties Virginia
Johnny Boy
by Giovanna Bartlett

I must have been about nine and he was about fourteen. To me Johnny Boy looked like Elvis Presley. He had shiny black hair, slicked back in a ducktail. He talked with a city accent, and he said “ain’t” a lot. It was as if he came from a different world. He was wild. I was fascinated.

Dad returned from driving to Brooklyn to pick up Uncle John and his family. They had arrived. They were getting out of the ’49 Chevy. First Uncle John, then Aunt Mabel and Kathleen and then Johnny Boy. They were different than we were in Connecticut. I knew I wasn’t supposed to act as if I noticed any difference. Uncle John was my mom’s older brother.

Johnny Boy slept with my brothers on army cots on the back porch so that Aunt Mabel and Uncle John could have their room upstairs. Kathleen also slept upstairs, in my room with me, but I tried to spend as much time as possible on the porch because that was where the action was. Johnny Boy regaled us all with stories of life in the city.

He taught us how to make a Molotov cocktail and light up an alley at night with it: Soak a tampax in gasoline. Fill a coke bottle with gas. Insert the tampax into the coke bottle and light the string. Time it just right and throw it as hard as you can into the dark alley. At that he extended his arms out wide, smiled and said, as if he could see it happening in front of him, “It lights up the alley real nice.”

I could hardly breathe when he told the story. I feared a policeman might come in to arrest all of us at that very moment. Never had I been so close to criminal activity.

And he knew about tampax? I wondered if my brothers knew what it was. I had only a vague idea at the time.

How disappointed I was when my parents made me go upstairs to sleep in my room. Nothing against Kathleen, but Johnny Boy was so much more interesting. And sort of cute in a dangerous kind of way.

So the next morning when he asked me if I wanted to ride on the bar of my brother’s bicycle with him, I immediately said yes, even though I was in my pajamas and barefoot. We rode down the hill and around the corner. He wouldn’t stop. I ordered him to let me off, but he wouldn’t. We turned and went over the bridge above the stream in which my brothers and I caught frogs. By that time I was shouting at him. He was going too fast for me to jump off. Then we turned and went down another hill into the baseball park.

Finally he stopped and I freed myself. I was sobbing. And mortified, being in pajamas and barefoot. I was crying and screaming at him, “Take me back home. You can’t leave me here like this.” He laughed as he stood up on the bike pedals and said, “Yes I can. You know I’m a juvenile delinquent.”

That did it. I was over him. He was trouble. I ran back home hoping no one would see me.
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.)

12169 Darnestown Road (Rt.28)
Gaithersburg, MD
Darnestown Rd & Quince Orchard Rd
Tel: 240-477-8225/240-246-7674
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/

Io Sto Con La Sposa (On the Bride’s Side)

Greater Washington Immigration Film Festival Friday, October 23, 2015 from 7:30 PM to 9:30

This may be your one chance to see this remarkable documentary from Italy, a USA premiere screening by the Greater Washington Immigration FilmFest 2015. Mark your calendar now for 7:30 pm, Friday, Oct. 25 at the Washington Ethical Society. Even better, one of the director/producers, Gabriele Del Grande, is planning to attend and talk with the audience post-film. Del Grande is a Milanese journalist specializing in immigration issues, currently a very hot issue in Italy and beyond.

A Palestinian poet and an Italian journalist meet five Palestinians and Syrians in Milan who entered Europe via the Italian island of Lampedusa after fleeing the war in Syria. They decide to help them complete their journey to Sweden – and hopefully avoid getting themselves arrested as traffickers – by faking a wedding. With a Palestinian friend dressed up as the bride and a dozen or so Italian and Syrian friends as wedding guests, they cross halfway over Europe on a four-day journey of three thousand kilometers.

Un poeta palestinese siriano e un giornalista italiano incontrano a Milano cinque palestinesi e siriani sbarcati a Lampedusa in fuga dalla guerra, e decidono di aiutarli a proseguire il loro viaggio clandestino verso la Svezia. Per evitare di essere arrestati come contrabbandieri però, decidono di mettere in scena un finto matrimonio coinvolgendo un'amica palestinese che si travestirà da sposa, e una decina di amici italiani e siriani che si travestiranno da invitati.

Così mascherati, attraverseranno mezza Europa, in un viaggio di quattro giorni e tremila chilometri. See trailer and ticketing information here -
www.IMFilmFest.eventbrite.com or
www.immigrationfilmfest.org

A scene from the movie.