SOCIAL MEETINGS/EVENT OVERVIEW

Social meetings take place on the third Sunday of the month, September through May, at the Friendship Heights Village Center: 4433 South Park Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD (please see map on back cover)

December 6:
Arts and Crafts Workshop for Kids, 2:30-4:00pm or 2:30-5:00pm at the 4827 Rugby Ave office (see page 2)

December 13:
Festa di Natale - NOTE: this is the SECOND Sunday in December, 4:00-6:30pm (see page 3)

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

We were treated to a rare experience at the November social: Romeo Segnan presented the book “Metropolis”, in which each page consisted of an original work of art and the pages were laid out accordion style on a series of connected tables. I was personally impressed by the quality of the prints and by the effort involved in assembling, not to mention motivating 303 artists to contribute their work. What I did not realize until our social was that Romeo himself, a professor of physics, had become an artist and contributed one of the prints in the book.

I just returned from the memorial service for Deno Reed, one of our long time members, who passed away on November 12. He and his wife Monica regularly attended our Sunday socials. He was a fine gentleman with many interests and friends.

At this time of year the Washington area is where you can find a variety of Italian-themed events and activities, including our own Festa di Natale (see pages 3-4). Look through the Local Events of Interest on page 10, but don’t stop there. The Italian Cultural Institute, which is attached to the Embassy of Italy, has a whole website advertising events; the National Gallery of Art also has regular tours of Italian masterpieces, some in Italian; and Casa Italiana, the Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society, Italians in DC, and different Meet-Up groups have their own offerings. We are lucky to have these resources in Washington, not just around Christmas, but all year. Just a Google click away.

We hope to see you at the Festa di Natale on December 13. Don’t forget to make your reservations, and save the date of Sunday, January 24 for our Carnevale celebration.

Arrigo Mongini
ARTS AND CRAFT THEMED WORKSHOP FOR KIDS

L’AUTUNNO, L’INVERNO E IL NATALE

For 4-11 year olds, December 6, 2:30-4:00 PM or 2:30-5:00 PM

Fun-filled sessions creating seasonal crafts and learning topic-specific vocabulary in Italian. The workshop is held in Italian (with individual translation to the child who needs it to stay involved). Each session is $20 (Sibling 50% discount). Minimum 4 kids. You can add an extra hour for games, video and story time (for $10), from 4:00-5:00 PM, and run your weekend errands while your kids learn and practice their Italian with us!

This is the first themed workshop of the year. You can register and see other upcoming events on our website at http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/children-workshops/.

IL CARNEVALE

January 24, 3:00-4:00 PM

Free during the Carnevale Party at the Friendship Heights Village Center

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WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

James and Victoria McLaughlin
Massimo Marchiori
**ICS FESTA DI NATALE**

**MUSICAL PROGRAM AND CHILDREN’S ACTIVITIES PROGRAM**

Sunday, December 13, 4:00-6:30 PM at:
Friendship Heights Village Center, 4433 South Park Ave, Chevy Chase, MD

In place of the usual monthly Social Meeting, in December the Society celebrates the Christmas Holidays with a musical program and pot-luck dinner featuring traditional Italian dishes (please follow instructions indicated on the flyer on the following page). ICS will provide panettone, pandoro and traditional drinks.

The Festa begins with a vocal performance of Christmas music, followed by the children’s singing performance (students of the ILP and other kids who wish to join the young choir); finally, a sing-along of carols, concluded with the appearance of Babbo Natale, his elves and la Befana, who will distribute gifts to the children (provided by the parents) by 4:30 PM. Decorations include a tree, kids’ artwork and an elaborate Presepio of the Nativity scene. Children who want to help Luigi De Luca in setting up the Presepe are welcome to come at 3:30 PM.

There is a special program of activities for children* in the two adjacent rooms during the musical performance. One is organized by Le D.I.V.E (Donne Italiane che Vivono all’Estero) and another creative activity is organized by MaPaCi (Mamme e Papà per la Culture Italiana). We are pleased to celebrate a traditional Festa di Natale in collaboration with other Italian organizations who share our mission!

Please bring your children’s presents by 4:30 PM, wrapped and with child’s name, and give them to the Elves at the door for distribution by Babbo Natale & La Befana.

**IMPORTANT: RSVP for ICS FESTA DI NATALE:** Send an email to rsvp@italianculturalsociety.org specifying your phone number and the number and names of adults and children no later than Friday, December 4. We cannot guarantee space for persons whose emails are received after that date.

*Parents of younger kids are encouraged to stay with them. Older children will be entertained by the volunteers, while parents can enjoy the choir in the main room.

FESTA DI NATALE
December 13th, 2015

FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS VILLAGE CENTER, 4433 S. Park Avenue - Chevy Chase, MD 20815

4:00PM Kids will be entertained by Le D.I.V.E & MaPaCI with Arts & Crafts activities

4:15PM Springbrook High School Choir will be performing a selection of Christmas songs.

5:00PM Children’s choir followed by Babbo Natale, Befana and the Elves for gifts distribution. (Parents must bring labeled gifts and drop them off at the door by 4:30PM)

5:30PM POTLUCK
Last names from A to F, please bring meats or casseroles. Last names from G to M, salad or fruit; N to Z, pasta or rice dish. ICS will provide desserts and drinks.

6:00 RAFFLE

RSVP
To help us plan refreshments and children’s crafts, please specify number and names of adults and children in your party, by Dec. 4th. Space is not guaranteed after this date. Email us at rsvp@italianculturalsociety.org or call 301-215-7885
NOVEMBER SOCIAL MEETING
11/15/15

ICS board member Romeo Segnan opened the program by telling us about the book, Metropolis, which was on display behind the audience, stretched out accordion style over several tables joined together. (Please see the November issue of Poche Parole on page 3 for more details). Boxes had to be placed on top of the tables to support the pages of the book because without them it would have been too low for comfortable viewing. Before and after the presentation, Romeo answered questions regarding the special papers used to join the pages together, as well as the basis for the original printed works of art which include an amazing variety of styles and subject matter. Three original copies of the book were made. It is Romeo’s responsibility to coordinate the exhibition of one of the copies to different parts of the United States. Walterina Zanellati, an artist visiting from Venice, then spoke briefly, in Italian, about the Opera Aperta studio in Venice.
NOVEMBER SOCIAL MEETING
11/15/15
CREIAMO IL PRESEPE

The November Social Meeting started with a joyful and interactive, creative project. The activity sought to renew Luigi Deluca’s Presepe, which we will see displayed at the Christmas party, like every year. Before the party at 3:30 PM, children are invited to complete the nativity scene.
LECTURES AT THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM/ICS IN BETHESDA

Concluding a yearlong celebration of the 750th anniversary of Dante's birth, the Italian Language Program cordially invites you to the lecture:

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT IN DANTE’S DIVINE COMEDY
by Prof. Francesco Ciabattoni, Georgetown University
Friday, December 4th at 7:00pm
4827 Rugby Ave., Suite 301 - Bethesda, MD 20814

In Dante's Inferno and Purgatorio punishments are so conceived as to match the nature of the sins. This symbolic retribution, or contrappasso, had theological foundations and poetic effectiveness. Dante uses monsters from pagan mythology as guardians of the circles in hell; the lustful are swept around by an eternal storm and Lucifer is stuck powerlessly at the middle of the universe. Come discover Dante’s hell as a topsy-turvy world where all rules of Heaven are subverted and parodied, and learn his path to purification that, from purgatory, leads to the Garden of Eden and finally Paradise.

Francesco Ciabattoni, Ph.D., is Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Italian Department at Georgetown University. Among his books and papers on medieval and contemporary literature, he has published on Dante, Petrarch, Boccaccio. His monograph Dante’s Journey to Polyphony (University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 2010) is a comprehensive study of the role of music in Dante's Commedia.

RSVP at: language@italianculturalsociety.org
Limited seating
Tel. (301) 215-7885
www.italianculturalsociety.org
ITALIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

Fall term is ending and while some students enjoy their long break, others are glad to attend our “December special drop-in classes”. These are fun classes that offer an opportunity to keep practicing the language, or try different teachers and different kinds of classes.

The Winter Term schedule is online and registration is open. “Course + Trip” will bring you to Puglia, Lombardia and Liguria, while Camilla Presti’s Virtual Tour will introduce you to Carlo Levi and his “Christ Stopped at Eboli”, as well as some geography of the Basilicata region.

Latin 1 and Latin 2 will be offered again for adults and younger students. Storia1 will be on Tuesdays and Food/Wine Pairing on Wednesday evenings. Different levels of the “Book club” reading classes will also be offered.

For 2016, we are introducing a new class called “Italian for Mamma and me!” on Fridays at 10:15-11:00 AM, for 18-36 month old children. This class will be similar to our Preschool Italian Immersion for 2-3 year olds, which entertained, stimulated and taught our language to 14 beautiful toddlers this past Fall. It will be offered again in Winter, on Saturday at 4:15-5:15 PM.

Educational lectures at Rugby Ave. will take place again this year. Three book presentations are already scheduled for January-April 2016. On December 4th we will have the pleasure to learn and review “Crime and punishments of the Divine Comedy.” We thought to give our students and friends a last chance to learn about the masterpiece of the father of our language. Don’t miss it!

Buone Feste!

Francesca Casazza
Director of the Italian Language Program
E’ DIVERTENTE IMPARARE L’ITALIANO

Nei miei corsi mi piace insegnare la cultura con film, romanzi, e articoli da giornali che abbiano a che fare con la storia italiana sia antica che contemporanea.

Per esempio, per affrontare l’argomento dell’immigrazione, un argomento di grande attualità al giorno d’oggi, abbiamo guardato due film, “Nuovo Mondo” e “Quando sei nato non puoi più nasconderti” che ci hanno dato l’opportunità di discutere le sfide cui gli immigranti si trovano di fronte all’arrivo in un paese nuovo. Con il film “Jonny Stecchino” abbiamo discusso il fenomeno della criminalità organizzata, del “banditismo”, e del “pentitismo” in cui i “pentiti” hanno collaborato con i magistrati per sconfiggere tale crimine.

“La Meglio Gioventù” mostra i cambiamenti nella società italiana avvenuti dal 1966 al 2002, con particolare enfasi su, ad esempio, le Brigate Rosse, la chiusura dei manicomi e la famosa alluvione di Firenze. Durante la visione del film “Il Gattopardo” e la lettura del libro di Tomasi di Lampedusa gli studenti hanno parlato del delicato periodo della unificazione d’Italia e della questione siciliana.

Perché gli studenti avessero un “assaggio” della regione Piemonte, recentemente ho fatto un corso sull’economia, industria, storia, cucina e folklore di questa meravigliosa parte della nostra Italia. Si sono entusiastici quando hanno imparato l’origine del movimento “slow food”, la storia della FIAT e dell’Olivetti, l’invenzione della “Nutella” e dei “Gianduiotti” o quando hanno imparato a preparare (almeno in teoria) alcuni tipici piatti e dolci piemontesi! Ma la “teoria” si è trasformata in “pratica” quando tutti abbiamo assaggiato la dolcissima e deliziosa “Panna Cotta” fatta da Julie, una delle studentesse. Il corso è stato un vero successo ed ora affronteremo la regione Puglia, e poi la regione Lombardia, e poi … chissà … ce ne sono ben 20 tra cui scegliere!

In ogni corso ci sono sempre esercizi di ripasso dei punti grammaticali più ostici, e ho notato che quando gli esercizi sono basati sul film che hanno visto o sugli articoli che hanno letto, il farli rimane più facile e meno pesante. Gli studenti hanno mostrato grande interesse, entusiasmo e motivazione nell’imparare la cultura di questo paese che amano e di cui vogliono imparare la lingua. Dopo i corsi, molti passano dei periodi in Italia, visitando i suoi posti meravigliosi e godendo in pieno della sua lingua e della sua cultura.

IT’S FUN TO LEARN ITALIAN

In general, my courses are culture-based through movies, books and newspaper articles dealing with both contemporary and historical issues of Italy.

For instance, to tackle the issue of immigration, indeed a very important one nowadays, we watched two movies, “Open Door” and “Quando sei nato non puoi più nasconderti”. These movies gave us the opportunity to discuss the challenges confronting the immigrants as they arrive in a new country. I used the movie “Johnny Stecchino” to present and discuss the phenomenon of organized crime, and the ancillary aspect of “banditism” and justice collaborators working with the magistrates who fought and died in pursuit of defeating it. I used another movie, “The Best of Youth”, to show the changes in Italian Society which occurred between 1966 and 2002. This movie offered a panoramic view of the historical changes during this period, with particular emphasis on the Red Brigades, the closing of mental hospitals, and the famous flood in Florence, among others. With the film “The Leopard” and the reading of the novel by Tomasi di Lampedusa, the students had the chance to learn and talk about the very sensitive times of the formation of unified Italy in the years 1860s, and the situation in Sicily.

Very recently I gave a course on the Piedmont region, in which through readings on the subjects of the region’s economy, folklore, cuisine, and history, the students had a taste of this wonderful place. They were thrilled to learn about the “slow food” movement (born in Bra), the history of FIAT and Olivetti, and the “invention” of Nutella and Gianduiotti. They learned how to prepare (at least in theory) typical dishes and desserts and we all experienced the sweet and delicious “Panna Cotta” made by one of them (grazie Julie)! The course was a real success and now we will tackle the region of Puglia, and then Lombardy, and then …… who knows…. there are 20 of them!

In each course grammatical review exercises are always added and the learning of the more difficult aspects of the language is facilitated through the use of movies and of various readings. The students have shown keen interest, enthusiasm and motivation in utilizing all these approaches to learn the culture of the country they all love. Following these courses, many spend time in Italy, travelling as tourists. They all tremendously enjoy being immersed in the language and in the culture.
LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

Please visit THE ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE’S calendar (Istituto Italiano di Cultura (IIC), which links to specific events and exhibits: [http://www.iicwashington.esteri.it/iic_washington/it](http://www.iicwashington.esteri.it/iic_washington/it)
and OUR WEBSITE, on the page Upcoming Events: [http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/upcoming-events/](http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/upcoming-events/)

AFI Silver Spring, December 1-20, AFI EUROPEAN UNION FILM SHOWCASE, including 4 Italian films

Italian Language Program’s Lecture: “CRIME AND PUNISHMENT IN DANTE’S INFERNO”, December 4, 7:00 PM, 4827 Rugby Ave, Suite 301, Bethesda, MD [see page 7 of this newsletter for more details]

Smithsonian American Art Museum, Saturday, December 5, 1:30-3:00 PM: CELEBRATE THE WONDERS OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON AND ITALIAN CULTURE. Enjoy performances by The Italian Fairy, The Flusso Dance Project, seasonal music by The Capital Hearings, and traditional Italian bagpipers, as well as festive craft activities, face painting, café specials, and more. This program is presented in partnership with Embassy of Italy and the Italian Cultural Institute, FREE Admission, Kogod Courtyard, 8th & G Streets NW, Washington, DC, [https://www.facebook.com/events/479516562233586/](https://www.facebook.com/events/479516562233586/)

National Organization of Italian American Women, December 6, THE 100 YEAR HISTORY OF THE HOLY ROSARY

National Gallery of Art: TOURS IN THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE, December 8 and 12 at 12:00 PM: [http://www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/calendar/guided-tours/foreign-language.html.html?pageNumber=1&_suid=1375527770004028455347121804875](http://www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/calendar/guided-tours/foreign-language.html.html?pageNumber=1&_suid=1375527770004028455347121804875)

Verizon Center, December 13, 7:30 PM, ANDREA BOCELLI CONCERT

Lutheran Church Of The Reformation, December 18-23, at various times, GUIDO’S FOUR SEASONS

Library Of Congress, December 18, BORROMEO STRING QUARTET

SHORT FILMS FOR THE SHORTEST DAY, December 21. Presented by the Italian Cultural Institute in partnership with the Italian Cultural Society, at the Embassy of Italy: seven films in Italian with English subtitles from the Centro Nazionale del Cortometraggio (National Center for Short Films) of Torino. Look for details on our website and the website of the Italian Cultural Institute.

Italian Cultural Institute: “LE ONDE: WAVES OF ITALIAN INFLUENCE”. Hirschhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden, 700 Independence Ave, SW, Washington, DC, through January 3

Italian Embassy: “FLORENCE CAPITAL OF ITALY 1865-1871” photo exhibit, through January 8, Monday thru Friday, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
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 to: language@italianculturalsociety.org or on a computer CD/DVD to: Editor, Poche Parole, 4827 Rugby Ave., Suite 301, Bethesda, MD 20814

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ICS Membership
4827 Rugby Ave., Suite 301
Bethesda, MD 20814

Please make check payable to:
The Italian Cultural Society

meeting location

friendship heights village center
4433 South Park Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815