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)

January 24:
Festa di Carnevale, in collaborazione con Italians in DC and MaPaCi, 3:00-6:30 at the 4827 Rugby Ave office (see page 2)

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

We had another very successful Festa di Natale on December 13. There were about as many people as in last year’s record attendance – well over 160 adults and about 100 children -- but I think we managed the crowd better. Babbo Natale and helpers were able to hand out the presents much faster and, thanks to the warm weather we opened up the courtyard for more breathing room. It was a great way to start off the holiday season thanks to Olga Mancuso, Francesca Casazza, our organizing committee of Marina Garzolini, Ellen Coppley, Chiara Gastaldi, and Ingrid Mongini, MaPaCi, Le D.I.V.E., our donors, and the rest of us that helped out. We all enjoyed the remarkable choir from Springbrook High School (See picture on page 2) and a song by the children of our Italian Language Program (See pictures on page 5).

We will start off 2016 with another party—Carnevale, which this year we will celebrate early, on Sunday, January 24, instead of in February. We will do it in collaboration with the Italians in DC and their MaPaCi who will run a parallel program for children, together with our ILP teachers at the Friendship Heights Village Center so that those of you with small children can celebrate with the rest of us. Entertainment will be provided by “The I-Talians” along with dancing and a costume contest. (See the flyer on page 3).

We are also very pleased to have participated with the Istituto Italiano di Cultura in Washington in the recent showing of short Italian film in the recent showing of short Italian films at the Embassy of Italy on December 21, the shortest day of the year. The Institute will be lending us two other new full length Italian films that we can show at two of our forthcoming social meetings as Movies of the Month. We look forward to further collaboration with the Institute on other activities in 2016.

Finally the winter schedule of classes of the Italian Language Program starts on January 4, so be sure to read Francesca’s message on Page 6, and check out the schedule on our website.

Arrigo Mongini
Welcome to Our New Members

Suellen Stover
Nathan Schulman
Linda Thrasher
Jonathan Medalia
Mary Jane Checchi
Alonso Cisneros
Mario Rinaudo
Mary Beth Kelly & Bill Walker
Richard Wilhelm & Shelly Porges
Patricia Jayne & Christopher Barr
Laura Bue and family
Quartararo/Lanzoni family

The Board of Directors

Arrigo Mongini: President
Ron Cappelletti: Vice President
Paolo Vidoli: Treasurer
Riccardo Cannavo': Secretary
Francesca Casazza: Director of the Italian Language Program
Carlo Ellena: Webmaster
Romeo Segnan: University and Museum Outreach
Olga Mancuso: Historian and Event Organizer
Allegra Tartaglia: Social Media and Marketing Materials
Stefania Amodeo: Movies and Scholarship Program

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Thank You to Our Sponsors

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CARNEVALE/ARTS AND CRAFT THEMED WORKSHOP FOR KIDS

CARNEVALE
Festa in Maschera with i-Talians

In collaboration with MAPACI and

EVENT LOCATION
Friendship Heights Village Center
4433 S. Park Ave,
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

DATE & TIME
January 24th
3:00PM-6:00PM

COST
$15 for ICS and Italians in DC members; $20 for non-members

RSVP
Payment & RSVP online:
http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/festa-di-carnevale-2016/
or fill out the form below

PROGRAM
3:00PM Welcome
3:15PM Arts & Crafts Children’s Workshop
3:30PM The I-Talians Concert
4:30PM Children’s Performance with The I-Talians and presentation of the traditional characters of Carnevale
4:50PM Parade and Best Costume Contest
5:15PM More Music, Dance, Food and Drinks

REFRESHMENTS
Drinks, snacks, & traditional “Chiacchiere”

ATTIRE
Costume (optional)
Masks for sale at the door

The I-Talians
is a Washington-based band, formed in 2011. They perform Italian pop, rock, and folk music from 1960s to today. Their repertoire includes songs by De Gregori, De Andre’, Baglioni, Battisti, and other songwriters.

You can reserve and pay online, or by filling and sending this form:

ICS FESTA DI CARNEVALE RESERVATION FORM
For reservations, fill out the form below and send it with a check to ICS Carnevale RSVP, 4827 Rugby Ave., Suite 301, Bethesda, MD 20814.
Checks for reservations must be received by January 20th. No refunds or cancellations after January 20th. Questions? Call us at 301-215-7885 or email language@italianculturalsociety.org

List the names and telephone numbers of those attending and the dollar amounts for the appropriate categories.
ICS and Italians in DC Members ($15) Non members ($20) Kids free – Please indicate the AGE of the kids
Name...................................................................................................................................................
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Please list your email address.................................................................................................................
A high point was a concert by the Springbrook High School Choir led by their music teacher, Emily Donaldson. Emily had been working with the choir for nearly four years with fabulous results from this talented group, including singing the beloved Christmas carol “Tu Scendi dalle Stelle”, in Italian, of course, and, my favorite, “Come Go With Me”, a popular hit when I was a teenager in 1957, complete with wawawawawa and the falsetto scream. I noticed several people snapping their fingers to the tune in the front row. Thank you Olga for introducing us to these wonderful folks. This was followed by a charming performance of Jingle Bells, also in Italian, of course, by the students in the children’s courses of the ICS Italian Language Program. Next came Babbo Natale (aka Paolo Nascimbeni) with his Elves (Lucio and Edvige D’Andrea) and La Befana (Elisabetta Vidoli) for delivery of presents to a crowd of kids. Everyone dived into the delicious potluck brought by all us amateur chefs and the 48 Pandori donated by the Bauli company. This time there was even some food left over! To conclude, Francesca announced the raffle winners, including a couple of double-winners, and everyone went home happy, even the clean-up crew.
FESTA DI NATALE
12/13/15

Poche Parole
JANUARY 2016
Vol. XXXIII, No. 5
PRESERVING AND PROMOTING
ITALIAN LANGUAGE
AND CULTURE
ITALIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

The year 2015 saw the ILP holding steady with the same strong enrollment numbers of last year. We are proud to have so many people coming to enjoy our “corner of Italy” in Maryland!

Our primary goal is to offer an authentic learning experience, teaching through our native backgrounds, the Italian language, literature, cinema, opera, art, history, cuisine, and our way of life. We also enable you to experience the Italian lifestyle when you travel and hope that more of you will take advantage of our “Course + Trip” ideas and our “Study Abroad” recommendations. Some of you already enjoyed Genoa and the school we recommend (Nina’s article follows). We will soon add other suggestions for additional places to visit and study Italian where we feel positive that it will be a good experience for you.

We encourage you to join us and discover the peculiarities of the 20 regions: “Course + Trip” this winter will bring you to Puglia, Lombardia and Liguria, while Camilla Presti’s Virtual Tour will introduce you to the geography and culture of the Basilicata region. The Puglia trip is now online, together with the Liguria, Lazio and Sicilia.

We are also proud to widen our course offerings with the teaching of Latin, the origin of our language, to deepen the history of our civilization (for adults and 5-8 graders), as well as classes of Art and Cooking (in English and in Italian) to develop your talents, with the support of our Italian instructors. Do not miss the fun and useful class “Food/Wine Pairing” on Wednesday evenings, and the opportunity to get a brief panorama of Italian history through the course, “Storia 1-2-3,” on Tuesdays.

For our passionate readers, we offer different levels of “Book club” reading classes, and this January we are starting a “Creative writing” class: Maura Maffia will teach “Riscriviamo Il Finale - Se una Notte d’Inverno un Viaggiatore, Italo Calvino.” Through this original book, the instructor will stimulate your imagination and guide students through a creative writing experience.

Another new course this year is, “Italian for Mamma and Me!” on Fridays from 10:15-11:00 AM, for 18-36 month old children. It is a chance for Italian moms to have their toddlers exposed to Italian songs and traditions and for non-Italian moms to learn the language the way kids do!

Please visit our page http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/italian-language-program/ and scroll down the menu to read about the schedule and the details of the classes.

I would like to thank all of our teachers for their passionate work and our great students for this successful year. I wish all of you a joyful 2016!

Buon anno!
Francesca Casazza
Studiare in Italia a Genova, la superba

Mi sono iscritta per un programma di studio di due settimane di 4 ore al giorno, dal 16 al 27 novembre. Non sapevo cosa aspettarmi, non essendo mai stata a Genova e non avendo ricevuto informazioni prima, tranne che l’inserimento in classe sarebbe stato successivo ad una preliminare valutazione al momento dell’arrivo. Maria Berg (iscritta solo per la prima settimana) ed io siamo arrivate alle 09:00, come da programma. Immaginai la nostra sorpresa quando abbiamo appreso che stavamo imparare a parlare italiano in un ambiente intimo, in una città interessante e poco turistica.

E’ stata una bella esperienza che consiglio a tutti coloro che vogliono imparare a parlare italiano in un ambiente intimo, in una città interessante e poco turistica.

Poche Parole

Studiare in Italia a Genova, la superba

I signed up for a two week study program of 4 hours daily from November 16 through 27. I did not know what to expect, not having been to Genoa before and receiving no advance information except that placement in a class would take place after a preliminary assessment on arrival. Maria Berg (who enrolled for the first week only) and I arrived at 9:00 a.m. as instructed. Imagine our surprise when we learned that we were the only students. It seems that unwittingly we had selected a time between usual sessions. Nearly all of Study in Italy students are university students either local or from abroad, such as University of Maryland and Harvard. Normally there would be dozens of students in both the morning and afternoon sessions. We were really lucky, having a private tutor for the cost of a regular course! The school is well equipped with several small classrooms, each for no more than 8 students, and a larger lecture room. Our young teacher, Francesca Giuliani, University of Genoa graduate in Languages and Literature, and both a qualified language instructor and Administrative Assistant to Suzanne Branciforte for the Genoa program, was excellent--patient, cheerful and encouraging. While Francesca is fluent in English, we spoke only in Italian as instruction is based on the communicative method, with exercises selected to strengthen weak areas, and which introduced topics historical, cultural as well as topical. We talked about what we did after class -- where we went, the restaurants we ate in, and what we saw. There was no shortage of topics as Genoa is an interesting city with a long history.

I had rented a flat on the via Roma, just a few blocks from the school, off the Piazza Ferrari, the center of this bustling, ancient, lively town, and next to the Teatro Carlo Felice. Unfortunately there was no opera. We could and did walk everywhere, even to the Genoa Brignole where we took the train to the Cinque Terre on the Sunday right after our arrival. We explored the Old Town, the Porto Antico, visited the San Lorenzo cathedral, the Mercato Orientale (an enormous central city market), the major shopping street of XX Settembre, the via Garibaldi where the great old palazzos still reign, the incomparable funiculars and “ascensori” (elevators) essential to navigating this hilly, remarkable town. There was a great deal I missed seeing, however, and worth a return.

It was a very good experience that I recommend to anyone wanting to learn to speak Italian in an intimate setting, in an interesting and untouristy city.
ITALIAN FOR KIDS
WINTER 2016

The objective of our courses is to develop comprehension and speaking skills. Children will learn to speak, read and write using traditional methods, but also by playing and moving (TPR approach). They will learn Italian traditions by creating artwork, singing songs, watching videos, and more.

The ICS Family Membership allows you:
- to come to the monthly Kids Movie viewing in Italian
- to borrow books and DVD from our library
- to benefit from discounts for classes and summer camps.

Either in classes, workshops or summer camps, children are properly stimulated in order to develop a positive attitude towards the learning of the Italian language, which can continue through our teenage and adult courses.

• CLASSES (For 2-11 year-olds):
  Italian for Mamma and Me (18-36 months), Friday, 10:15-11:00 am
  Pre-school Italian Immersion 2-3 yrs old, Saturday, 4:15-5:15 pm
  Pre-School Italian Immersion 4-5 yrs old, Saturday, 10:30 am-12:00 pm

  Italian for Kids – Elementary/Intermediate 6-8 years old, Friday 4:30-6:00 pm
  Italian for Kids – Beginners/Elementary 9-11 years old, Friday 4:30-6:00 pm
  Italian for Kids – Intermediate/Advanced 9-11 years old, Friday 4:30-6:00 pm

  Italian for Kids – Beginners/Elementary 7-10 years old, Saturday 2:00-3:30 pm
  Italian for Kids – Intermediate/Advanced 9-11 years old, Saturday 2:00-3:30 pm

• ARTS & CRAFTS THEMED WORKSHOP for KIDS IN ITALIAN (For 4-11 year-olds):
  Fun-filled sessions creating seasonal crafts, enjoying story time and playing games, while learning vocabulary in Italian. The workshop is held in Italian (with individual translation to the child who needs it to stay involved). Each session is $30 (Sibling 50% discount). Minimum 4 kids.
  Enjoy your Christmas shopping, while your kids learn about Christmas traditions and have fun!

• SUMMER CAMPS (For 4-11 year-olds):
  Visit our website for information, video and pictures!
Lecture at the Italian Language Program

Di Luigi De Luca

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT IN DANTE’S DIVINE COMEDY

On Friday December 4th, the guest speaker of the Italian Language program, Professor Francesco Ciabattoni, presented a lecture on the subject of “Crime and Punishment in Dante’s Divina Commedia”. Ciabattoni is a Dante specialist on the Faculty at Georgetown University’s Italian Department. At the Italian Cultural Society’s venue, the Italian Language Program Director, Francesca Casazza, served as host of the lecture.

Ciabattoni presented Dante as the primary force that has propelled the Florentine dialect to become the language of Italy. However, in addition and most importantly, Prof. Ciabattoni has actually stated that Dante is the “inventor” of the Italian language. In reality, the Florentine dialect was in competition with several other dialects, especially the Sicilian dialect, which might well have become the official Italian language, had Dante not written his Divine Comedy.

Ciabattoni presented several slides showing Gustave Doré’s artistic renditions of the different “gironi” of the Inferno, the Purgatory, and of the nine angelic circles of the Paradise. He called the public’s attention to the importance of Virgil, who functioned as his guide in the Inferno and Purgatory, while Beatrice takes him through Paradise. His choice of Virgil was based on the importance of this poet serving as an example of Dante’s master and supreme poet. The evening was exciting with all seats taken, and lots of questions asked and superbly answered by the Professor.
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 and OUR WEBSITE, on the page Upcoming Events: http://www.italianculturalsoxiety.org/upcoming-events/


Italian Cultural Society, WINTER CLASSES are starting on January 4

Italian Embassy: “FLORENCE CAPITAL OF ITALY 1865-1871” photo exhibit, through January 8, Monday thru Friday, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, http://www.iicwashington.esteri.it/IIC_Washington/it/

Italian Cultural Society, FOOD/WINE PAIRING COURSE with Carlo Ellena Wednesday, January 13 and end February 10 with dinner at I Ricchi


“THE ITALIAN CARNEVALE”, The KID Museum, 6400 Democracy Blvd, Bethesda, January 31, 2:30-4:30. This event is organized by our Italian Language Program, in collaboration with Istituto Italiano di Cultura in Washington. Come discover the Italian Carnevalé, its origin and its traditions, through an interactive presentation for families, a creative mask workshop and traditional Carnevale desserts.


Cooking with Maura – Winter term
Drop-ins: $75 per class ($70 ICS members)
Per session: $210 for 3 classes ($200 for ICS memb.)

Thursdays 12:30-3:30PM
Session 1: 01/07, 01/14, 01/21
Session 2: 02/04, 02/11, 02/18
Session 3: 03/03, 03/10, 03/17

Cooking with Maura – Fall/Winter term
$75 per class ($70 ICS members)

Saturdays, 12:00-3:00PM on the following dates: Dec. 12, 19, Jan. 9, 16, Feb. 6, 20, Mar. 5 and 19
Other dates are possible upon request
To advertise on Poche Parole, please contact language@italianculturalsociety.org, or call 301-215-7885
The expiration date of your membership is shown on the address label. Please renew using the form at the bottom of this page.

### Membership Application

Mail application to:

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

Please make check payable to: The Italian Cultural Society

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### Meeting Location

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