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)

April 8, 7:00 PM:  
The Italian Cultural Society presents a book review on Tre Testimoni (see page 9). Please confirm your attendance to RSVP@italianculturalsociety.org.

April 17, 3:00 PM:  
The Italian Cultural Society, in collaboration with the Istituto Italiano di Cultura, presents Tempo Instabile con Probabili Schiarite (see page 6). Please confirm your attendance to RSVP@italianculturalsociety.org.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

I was out of town for the last Sunday social meeting and Amy Riolo’s Puccini on a Plate presentation, but Ron Cappelletti prepared an excellent summary. (See page 3) It looks like I missed a great lecture and a taste of wonderful food.

Our next social, on April 17, will feature another movie lent to us and jointly sponsored by the Istituto Italiano di Cultura, courtesy of the Director, Angela Tangianu. See the summary on page 6. Be sure to get there early and get a good seat since we can expect many people to attend these jointly sponsored movies.

We are starting to take reservation for our annual Scholarship Awards Gala on Friday evening, May 20. This year the theme is Italia in Musica, in honor of great Italian musicians. It is also a special treat to hold it at the Embassy of Italy. You can make reservations and pay online from our website or by mail to our office. We promise an elegant and entertaining evening. Please see page 10 for details.

I again urge our readers to refer to the information on page 8 of this issue or on our website regarding scholarships, and think about whether someone you know or a family member could qualify for one of them. Applications are due no later than Friday, April 22. A winner can earn from $500 to $1,000 in award money and get a free ticket to the May 20 gala. Get the information out to these potential winners. We want to see more applicants.

Get out and enjoy the spring weather. I hope to see you at the next social.

Arrigo Mongini
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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Allegra Tartaglia: Social Media and Marketing Materials
Stefania Amodeo: Movies and Scholarship Program
Lisa Wood: Editor

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS
SINGLE:
Jessica Wollett
Susan Kakesako
Bruce Romano
Marie C. Penichet

COUPLE:
Michael Montopoli
David Cieslikowski & Virginia Yee
Mauren Turcatel & Rodrigo Laux

FAMILY:
Salvatore, Elissa and Joseph DiCarlo

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Bruce Esposito
PUCCINI ON A PLATE: OPERA’S INFLUENCE ON ITALIAN CUISINE
DI RON CAPPALLETTI

Our March 13 Social meeting featured author and charming television personality, Amy Riolo, who has written several books and given lectures about food and culture in the Mediterranean region (Italy, Greece, Egypt, North Africa). Her talk entitled “Puccini on a plate”, which intertwined history of the period in which Puccini wrote his famous operas with the emergence of an Italian middle class, restaurants, and the rise to now familiar Italian foods in that period (pizza in the late 19th century, for example.) But that was not all: Amy brought along examples: Taralli Integrale con pepe e finocchio con Maccu - Purea di Fave per San Giuseppe, una Torta di Polenta. These were augmented by bruschette con pomodoro prepared on the spot. Her presentation generated a lively Q&A and her foods delighted the palates of our guests, many of whom took the opportunity to purchase one of her cookbooks.
ITALIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

Winter Term ended with a fun pizza event at Pizzeria Da Marco on March 19. About 110 students with their families participated. Dads were celebrated also! The 1st prize of the raffle, a $100 gift Certificate for an ILP course was won by Salvatore Romano, Cristiana’s Saturday morning student. Second prize was won by Richard Farmer, Nicoletta’s Monday evening student, and the third prize was won by the Bisagni family, whose children attend Italian for Kids, on Friday afternoons. Thanks to everybody for participating and special thanks to Pizzeria Da Marco, which donated 15% of their sales.

This March, the ILP launched new Classes at the NIAF headquarters in Dupont Circle, with a Beginners 1 (A1) course taught by Simona Gentile. Also we are offering classes for their staff. We are very proud of this new partnership!

On April 4th, our Spring Term will start with Cinema and Literature courses (Il gattopardo and La meglio gioventù,) and a new course on the origin of the Italian Language (Dal volgare a Boccaccio). Other 5 week courses include a Virtual Tour of Venice and Discover Liguria, followed in May by a 5 week course on traditional vs. non traditional Italian wine. Do not forget about our “Book club” courses, reading La regola dell’Equilibrio, Carofiglio with Carlo Ellena, and Numero Zero, Umberto Eco, with Antonella Pellegrino. Maura Maffia will offer a creative writing course (Riscriviamo il finale – Se una notte d’inverno un viaggiatore) and cooking classes. Please visit our schedule to see all 62 courses.

This Spring we will start offering online classes: Carlo Ellena will offer Beginners 1 (A1) on Fridays at 12:30-2:00, and Antonella Salvatore will offer Conversation and grammar review on Tuesdays 8:00-9:30pm. They will also be available for questions in between their morning lessons and for 1:1 tutorials. Please see details on our web page http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/online-courses-and-tutorials/

Finally, on Friday, April 8, at 7:00pm, the ILP organizes another lecture, at our Rugby Ave. location: the presentation of the book “THREE WITNESSES: A Painter, A Prisoner, A Peasant” by George Custodi. This book contains three newly translated Italian war diaries and memoirs, word-for-word accounts presented to the reader in English and Italian simultaneously. A great opportunity for our students to improve their dictionary, besides learning the historical content.

Enjoy Spring!
Francesca Casazza
A MEMORABLE TRIP: SICILIA IN SEPTEMBER 2014 - PART 1

The weather could not have been better: cool nights and warm bright days, except for the last night when it stormed and hail stones the size of peas rained down. I had been to Sicily before, on my own, and visited several of the major sites, but with Davide Pirrera Rosso di Cerami guiding, explaining, and interpreting, everything looked different and meant a great deal more. Also, with Davide, we went to many out-of-the way places and ate in small, local trattorias where I would never have ventured.

Carol and Luigi Einaudi and I were the only travelers, so it was a very special and personal tour we enjoyed. We stayed in a charming bed and breakfast, the Villa Casablanca, outside Enna, near Lake Pergusa, where the archeological site Cozza Matrice is found. On the last day before leaving, we visited it because Carol Einaudi wanted to see the cleft through which Persephone was dragged into Hades by Pluto. There, walking on the paths strewn with ancient pottery shards, in a scrubby dry hillside, Davide spied a coin, which he believes is Byzantine. A memorable find, indeed.

The days were crowded. With Franco Pirrera (Davide’s father) driving, we left at 8:30 in the morning and returned usually after 7 in the evening to enjoy a light supper of cheese, sausage, and wine on our own in the B&B. The memorable exceptions were the four cooking lessons that Emilia, Davide’s mother, gave us at the Feudo di Cerami. These were dazzling in variety and execution: the best food in Sicily ever: penne alla Norma, arancino, melanzano parmesan the Sicilian way, cannoli, her own limoncello, were especially memorable.

As this was the first excursion offered by Davide, he was anxious to show us the most and the best, and because there were only three of us, we were able to take in many more sites and experiences than a larger group. For example, we visited Mozia, a remarkable archaeological site and island between Trapani and Marsala where we had a tasting in a winery; we had a memorable chocolate tasting in Modica; a beautiful morning in Taormina admiring the Greek theatre; the brief visit to Cefalù after Monreale left me wanting to return to spend more time at the cathedral; we went to Caltagirone, a town famous for its pottery and its 142-step monumental Staircase of Santa Maria del Monte, and where we bought pottery.

We criss-crossed the island and along the way experienced the wide variety of landscapes from mountains to valleys, fruit farms to grain fields, parched slopes to walls covered in flowers holding back huge fig trees. What were the most memorable sites? Monreale and Villa Romana de Casale for human achievements: one supreme, the other modest in scale but equally unique. I cannot add anything to the many superlatives that have been lavished on these extraordinary creations. I had been on Mt. Etna before on a cold, cloudy and rainy day; this time it was sunny, there were colors and flowers on the ground: it was enchanting and humbling.

Sicilia has so much to offer; we only had a taste. This was a unique trip, thanks to the efforts of the Pirrera Rosso family.

Part 2 continues in the May issue
MOVIE OF THE MONTH

4/17/16

This month, as in February, instead of the 1:00 PM movie and the 3:00 PM Kids movie, we are pleased to screen a movie in collaboration with the Istituto Italiano di Cultura in Washington DC as our 3:00 PM main program. The movie is part of the 2015 edition of NICE.

N.I.C.E.

2/21/16 + 4/17/16


N.I.C.E. ha proposto nel tempo gli esordi di artisti oggi internazionalmente affermati, presenta una selezione multiforme, che non offre solo entertainment, ma contribuisce a far conoscere la complicata architettura dell’odierna società italiana. Come ha sottolineato Cristina Giachi, Vice Sindaco di Firenze, N.I.C.E. è “un festival di qualità che ben rappresenta l’Italia all’estero, una formula originale che non svolge solo la funzione di promozione, ma invita anche allo studio, alla riflessione e alla ricerca sul cinema italiano”.


N.I.C.E. ringrazia per il contributo: Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali-Direzione Generale per il Cinema; Ministero Affari Esteri; Assessorato alla Cultura del Comune di Firenze e Regione Toscana, Fondazione Sistema Toscana - Mediateca Regionale-Toscana Film Commission; in particolare Rai, Rai Cinema e Rai Com per il prezioso aiuto al progetto.

TEMPO INSTABILE CON PROBABILI SCHIARITE

Sinossi: In una tranquilla cittadina delle Marche, due amici trovano il petrolio nel cortile della loro cooperativa sull’orlo della banca. Una miscela esplosiva che fa saltare tutte le regole: amicizie che si rompono, matrimoni in frantumi e tutto il paese in subbuglio. Il film è una commedia, una sarcastica metafora dei vizi, dei difetti ma anche delle virtù dell’Italia di oggi.

UNSTABLE WEATHER WITH PROBABLE CLEARING

Summary: In a quiet little town in the Marche region the cooperative run by a couple of friends finds itself in a difficult economic situation and is close to bankruptcy. One night, while performing illegal activity, they get lucky and strike an oil well. This will make contradictions and conflicts explode between them. The movie is a comedy, a sarcastic metaphor of virtues and vices of contemporary Italian society.


N.I.C.E. over time has debuted artists who are internationally recognized today, and has presented a varied selection which offers not only entertainment but also contributes an understanding of the complicated architecture of today’s Italian society. As Cristina Giachi, deputy mayor of Florence has emphasized, N.I.C.E. is “a festival of quality which well represents Italy to the world, an original formula which not only develops the function of promotion, but which also invites study, reflection and research into Italian film.”

N.I.C.E. in collaboration with the Italian Embassy and Istituto Italiano di Cultura has presented two special events in 2015: Italo, directed by Alessia Scarso, and Tempo instabile con probabili schiarite (Unstable weather with probable clearing) directed by Marco Pontecorvo, to be reshowed in 2016 in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Society.

N.I.C.E. offers thanks for their contributions to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Film division; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Division of Culture of the city of Florence and the Region of Tuscany, Foundation System Toscana - Regional Mediateca - Toscana Film Commission; and in particular RAI, RAI Cinema and RAI Com for their invaluable help with the project.
ICS’ NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS

Meet our three newest board members. They have actually been serving on the board for several months, having been appointed by the board to take the places of members who resigned before completing their three year terms. Our bylaws provide that they do not come up for election until the would-be terms of those that they have replaced would expire. Let’s give a belated welcome to Vittorio, Lisa, and Chiara!”

Vittorio Felaco is a returning long-time member of the Italian Cultural Society of Washington, D.C., Inc. His entire professional career has been spent teaching and working as a translator and interpreter. He taught at the University of Rhode Island, Smith College, The Experiment for International Living, Brown University, the University of New Hampshire before coming to the University of Maryland in College Park.

His freelance work as a translator and interpreter has seen him working for the US State Department and several other governmental agencies, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and a host of other business and institutional clients.

Chiara was born in small town near Milan but she has spent her last 10 years between Verona and Venice, where she received her BA in Foreign Languages and International Management at the University of Verona and MA in International Relations and Development Policies at Ca’ Foscari University. During her university years she became Vice-President of a University-linked Cultural Association dedicated to organize acting, singing and Italian language classes in support of international students that were passionate about Italian culture and arts. She also began private tutoring in German and French to children and adolescents. Her work experience started in an UNESCO International Organization agency that promoted Italian literature and history and volunteered in an Amnesty International office helping to organize educational events in public schools. In 2014 she spent a semester in Sydney, Australia studying education and communication. She also trained in new teaching practices that helped Italian students to prepare for the IELTS exam. Recently Chiara moved with her husband to Washington DC where she teaches to both children and adults in classroom and private lessons and works as Manager and Consultant for Radici Market, an independently owned Italian store.

Chiara joined the Italian Cultural Society, first of all because she strongly believes in the protection and preservation of intangible cultural heritage and on the importance to promote and share Italian language and culture with those who wish to be involved: “My stated goal is primarily to support students and the education sector, I believe in the realization of a dynamic and international educational exchange system in order to enforce the relationship between Italian and American institutions.” She’s also passionate about photography, arts and history.

Ms. Wood serves as the primary marketing contact for all Foulger-Pratt Companies (Acquisitions, Development, Construction, Commercial/Residential Asset and Property Management). In this role, she oversees all corporate marketing and communication efforts and deliverables, as well as marketing strategies, branding, marketing collateral and events for all properties. Ms. Wood brings a diverse perspective with over a decade of experience in the real estate industry. Her industry experience includes 7 years as the Marketing Director for GTM Architects in Bethesda, MD. Prior to joining GTM, Ms. Wood worked at Douglas Development in Washington, DC as the Marketing Director and an Executive Assistant to the Leasing Department.

Ms. Wood holds dual Bachelor of Art degrees in Classical Humanities and Art History and Archaeology from University of Maryland. Additionally, she is involved in multiple industry associations and philanthropic efforts. Memberships include: DC Building Industry Association and National Association of Industrial and Office Properties.

Ms. Wood is on the Board of Directors of the Italian Cultural Society and serves as the editor for their newsletter, Poche Parole. She is also on the executive committee for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Real Estate Games, where she serves as co-chair for the golf tournament. Additionally, she volunteers for numerous other charitable organizations, including Courage for Kids.
THE ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY SPONSORS AN ANNUAL COMPETITION FOR THE FOLLOWING AWARDS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH DONATIONS AND FUNDRAISING EVENTS.

ICS Award Applications deadline: Post-Marked on Friday, April 22, 2016

Applicants should be no more than 25 years of age as of May 1, except for the Young Scientist Award, where the maximum age is 30.

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.
• Young Scientist Award: one $1,000 award to be given to an Italian national working in the Washington area as a doctoral student or as a post-doctoral student or equivalent (e.g., in connection with NIH, NIST or with NASA or a university) in the physical, biological or medical sciences, or mathematics or engineering, who has distinguished him/herself in research while working in the U.S.

Applications

Materials to be included in the application are:

• College transcripts or, for high school awards, high-school transcripts. For the Young Scientist award, a document verifying the Italian degree awarded, if applicable, and the standing of the student will suffice instead of a college transcript.
• Three letters of recommendation (two for the Maria Guarrera Wilmeth awards)
• An essay describing why the candidate 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, etc.

Selection will occur during May and awards will be presented at the ICS Awards Gala, which takes place on Friday, May 20 at the embassy of Italy, 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.

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 Cesarina Horing Awards to students of Italian at universities in the Washington, DC area: $500 has been made available to each of Georgetown University, The University of Maryland, and Catholic University, all of which have Italian Major programs, for awards to one to three students and $300 has been made available to each of George Washington, American, and George Mason Universities, all of which have an Italian Minor program, for awards to one to three students. The awardees are selected by the Italian language program faculties at each university. The awards are funded by donations in honor of the late Cesarina Horing, formerly director of the ICS Italian Language Program.
THREE WITNESSES: A PAINTER, A PRISONER, A PEASANT

At the ICS we receive many interesting requests but none more than the book sent to us by Barry Doss, the President of The Design Group. He asked us to review a book written by George Custodi. “Three Witnesses: A Painter, A Prisoner, A Peasant”. It is a war diary following three prisoners of war, each written from his own perspective. The book is arranged in a unique manner with the Italian above the English. Here is an example:

Ovunque in questo libro [testo] così rinchiuso in parentesi e stato inserito dal traduttore e non si trova nei diari originali.

[Throughout this book, [text] as shown enclosed by brackets was inserted by the translator and is not found in the original diaries.]

For those trying to learn Italian, this book provides an instant translation that is easy to follow. But, this is not the reason to read these compelling war diaries. Compiled by the son of one of the witnesses, George Custodi gives the reader a unique insight into the horrors of war and the destitute conditions of the prisoners.

George Custodi begins with his 2005 discovery of his father’s war diary, 26 years after Angelo Custodi’s death. He regrets that he never had the chance to discuss his father’s papers with him. With this discovery, he gives us a look at a personal account of the period during World War II when Italy transitioned from an ally of the Germans to being occupied by them.

Livio Orazio Valentini was a painter and considered to be one of the greatest Italian artists of the Twentieth Century. His unit was first sent to Sicily, then to Albania in October of 1940. His battalion was marching through an area called The Serpentine when it was rumored that Il Duce (Mussolini) was going to review the troops. “He paused in front of me and asked where I was from. When I answered, he said that in Orvieto there was not only an Academy and pretty girls, but the wine was good. He then looked at my shoes and noticed that they were broken.”

The second war diary is that of Angelo Luigi Custodi who was interned in Campo di Concentramento No. 333, Beniamonowo, Polonia (Poland). Custodi’s notes stressed the starvation rations allowed to the prisoners, many of whom traded scraps of food for items of clothes, and in Custodi’s case even a fountain pen. Angelo Custodi learned after his release that the love of his life, Vera, had remarried to an American soldier.

The third witness was Attilio Cerchecci, a civilian farmer who lived in the hamlet of Ripesena, near Orvieto. His story was told by a dear friend, Emanuela Leonardi Ridolfi. She learned that he had kept a diary during the war and had a vivid memory of the events important to the history of the area. The first part deals with important events before May 25, 1944 and the second part is the diary from May 25 to July 3, 1944. His diary ends with an account of the war crimes perpetrated by the Nazis in Umbria at the end of the war.

The epilogue, “Witnessed From A Generation Later,” written by Donald M. McKale from Clemson University, is an attempt to present, in chronological order, the horror of the Fascist government’s involvement in the war. “Italians, both in decades past and even today, remember more fondly how their country left World War II between 1943 and 1945 than how it entered and fought in the war from 1940 to 1943. That is hardly surprising. Those years from 1940 to 1943, according to one historian of Mussolini and Fascism, ‘were ones of almost continuous military defeat, a natural humiliation felt by all Italians.’”

G. Custodi will be at the ILP on Friday, April 8 at 7:00pm to present this book. Copies will be available for purchase.
ICS GALA

Gala 2016

in collaboration with

The Board of Directors
of the Italian Cultural Society of Washington D.C.
cordially invites you to a special evening

“Italia in Musica”
May 20th, 2016 at 6:30pm

Embassy of Italy
3000 Whitehaven St. NW
Washington, DC 20008
(Valet Parking available)

Cocktail - Silent Auction
Musical Performance
Dinner
Award Ceremony for Scholarship Recipients

Honorary Guests:

Maestro Simone Tartaglione
Pianist, Artistic Director and Orchestra Conductor

Alessandra Cuffaro
Critically acclaimed Violinist

Dress Code: Cocktail Attire

RSVP and payment online at www.italianculturalsociety.org/gala-2016/
or send a check to ICS - 4827 Rugby Ave., Suite 301, Bethesda, MD 20814
and email to RSVP@italianculturalsociety.org

by May 13th

$125 ICS Members
$150 Non Members

Honorary Guests:

Maestro Simone Tartaglione
Pianist, Artistic Director and Orchestra Conductor

Alessandra Cuffaro
Critically acclaimed Violinist
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.italianculturalsociety.org/upcoming-events/


Italian Cultural Institute, TWO COUNTRIES - ONE HEART: Italian Embassy, 3000 Whitehaven Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008, April 5, 7:00 PM, http://www.iicwashington.esteri.it/iic_washington/en/gli_eventi/calendario/2016/04/two-countries-one-heart.html

Italian Cultural Institute, ARMA DEI CARABINIERI free concert, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Concert Hall, 2700 F St NW, Washington, DC 20566, April 18, 6:00 PM, http://iicwashington.info/events/20160418/rsvps/

To advertise on Poche Parole, please contact language@italianculturalsociety.org, or call 301-215-7885

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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Poche Parole

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PRESERVING AND PROMOTING
ITALIAN LANGUAGE
AND CULTURE

The Italian Cultural Society
of Washington D.C.
4827 Rugby Avenue, Suite #301
Bethesda, MD 20814
(301) 215-7885
www.ItalianCulturalSociety.org

Return Service Requested

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

meeting location

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

Please deliver Poche Parole by:  ☐ email only  ☐ email and US Mail

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