**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)

**May 20, 6:00 PM:**

**May 22, 3:00 PM:**
The Italian Cultural Society, in collaboration with the Istituto Italiano di Cultura, presents GENOVA PER NOI, an evening of poetry, live music, songs, and history from this beautiful city (see page 8).

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**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

At the April social meeting we again presented a feature length film in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute. About 100 people came to watch “Tempo Instabile con Probabili Schiarite.” That many people came despite the beautiful weather and our new projector was bright enough to overcome the glare of the sun. I have been told that the Friendship Heights Village Center will be renovated this summer and that one of the improvements will be a way of shielding the main hall from the sun.

At our April board meeting the board voted in a slate of officers for the immediate future as of this June, with deliberate emphasis on a gradual transition to a younger set of officers. Ron Cappelletti will be interim president for six months. Vittorio Felaco will be vice president, with the understanding that he will step in as president in six months, Paolo Vidoli will continue as treasurer, also on an interim basis while he works with Francesca Casazza to recruit a new treasurer, and Chiara Gastaldi will be secretary. Francesca will of course continue to direct our Italian Language Program.

It has been an honor and privilege to be your president over the last three years, and I see a great future for ICS and our language program. Don’t miss our GALA on May 20!! It will be a fabulous and elegant evening at the magnificent Embassy of Italy with world class musical entertainment (page 9); and two days later we will have our last social of the season, in collaboration with the IIC: “Genova per noi”, featuring Prof. Francesco Ciabattoni presenting the “Superba” city, its alleys and its magnificent palaces, with a focus on the poetry and the literature in songs of Genovese’ s songwriters. The i-Talians, the band, will perform the songs. (page 8)
Welcome to Our New Members

Single:
Timothy Hansen
Edelweiss Calcagno
Bridget Gaglio

Couple:
Jack Rose and Lorelie Masters
Chiara Gastaldi and Alberto Ceccon
Franco Laghi and Julie Mel Li Laghi

Family:
Felice Fava and Family
Marc & Jill Fioravanti and Family
Suzana Petanceska and Family

The Board of Directors
Arrigo Mongini: President
Ron Cappelletti: Vice President
Paolo Vidoli: Treasurer
Vittorio Felaco: At Large
Francesca Casazza: Director of the Italian Language Program
Carlo Ellena: Webmaster
Romeo Segnan: University and Museum Outreach
Olga Mancuso: Historian
Allegra Tartaglia: Social Media and Marketing Materials
Stefania Amodeo: Movies and Scholarship Program
Lisa Wood: Editor

Table of Contents
ILP Director’s Message.................................3
From the ILP.............................................4-5
Tre Testimoni Book Review.........................6
Tempo Instabile con Probabili Schiarte............6
ICS Summer Camp.....................................7
May Social Event.....................................8
ICS Gala...................................................9
Local Events of Interest............................10
Advertisements........................................11

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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
Dear friends,

Spring Term started with Session 1, with 40 courses. Session 2 (mainly morning) will start the week of May 9, with 12 more courses, including Food/wine Pairing: Traditional vs Non-traditional Wines, on Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 pm, a 5-week course that will include a food and wine tasting at the restaurant Amici Miei (1093 Seven Locks Road - Potomac, MD 20854) to conclude the learning adventure with a Sardinian dinner with wine tasting.

Last April 4th, at 7:00 pm in Rugby Ave. we had a very interesting talk with Giorgio Custodi, who presented his book, written in Italian and English (one row in each language).

On June 11th we will be at the Festa Italiana in Frederick. Do not miss fun and learning opportunities: at the Cultural Pavilion. Carlo Ellena will talk about food/wine pairing, and about the historical and natural beauty of our country. We will also have a booth in the kids’ area. Come visit us!

We are working now on the Summer Term, starting June 27th: we will offer classes for beginner, intermediate and advanced students. Conversation, history and good cinema will help you practice your comprehension and speaking skills. Our Summer Schedule will be online at the beginning/middle of May.

For the kids, we are planning wonderful activities for our third Summer Camp, for the weeks of June 20th, July 5th, July 11th, August 22nd. The week of June 27, we will have a week dedicated to 12-18 years old, to learn Italian through cooking, music, cinema, besides some grammar and conversation, of course. Latin 1 Summer immersion will also be offered on July 25, or earlier in June, upon request.

Un caro saluto,
Francesca Casazza
A MEMORABLE TRIP: SICILIA IN SEPTEMBER 2014 - PART 2

Nina Matheson has described so well our extraordinary tour of Sicily, that we will only add some impressions upon seeing the island for the first time and a description of a few sites we found especially memorable.

Our trip from the Catania airport to Enna was through a semi-arid, semi-tropical tapestry of fichi d’India, citrus orchards, and grain fields set in a beautiful low rolling landscape ringed by hills and higher mountains, especially Etna, which dominates much of eastern end Sicily. The land bears the marks of centuries of cultivation and seems prosperous. One wondered why so many Sicilians had emigrated before World War I.

As in many parts of Italy, we saw many picaresque towns and cities on the peaks of the hills rising above the plain.

One of these was Enna, known as the umbilicus of Sicily, because it is in the very center of the island. The city had its beginnings in the 11th B.C. on the summit of a rock that rises perpendicularly from the plain below (photo 1). The climate is more temperate than the rest of the island which, as Nina noted, made sleeping in Enna a delight. The history of Enna begins with the Siculi, an ancient people defeated and absorbed by the Greeks in the early 700s B.C. The Greeks found an agrarian community with a temple and a very active cult to a goddess of fertility, both agricultural and human, named Kore.

Since the Siculi goddess was similar to the Greek goddess, Demeter, they left the center of worship intact and renamed her Demeter.

From the archeological site, the Cozzo Matrice mentioned by Nina, you can see much of Sicily.

The Cozzo is still farmed today, so its lands encompass all of Sicilian history from the Siculi, to the Greeks, to the Romans, to the Goths, to the Byzantines, to the Arabs, to the Normans, to the Angevins and Aragonese, to the Spanish Viceroyalty and the Bourbon Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, and finally, to unification with Italy in 1860.

Sicilians pride themselves on having a Constitution and sitting Parliament that predate the Italian republic and they chafe at the disrespect they perceive from the mainland and Rome. As one example, when one goes by ferry across the straits from Messina to Reggio Calabria, there is a sign welcoming the passengers to Italy. And what exactly then is Sicily?

Enna has been the home of our guide Davide Pirrera Rosso di Cerami’s family for centuries. We were lucky to have Davide as our guide not only because he knows the archeology and history of Sicily and is the author of two books (one on the myth of Demeter), but because he is young and actively working with others of his generation to build an economically stronger, post-Mafia Sicily.

We got to know his family and fiancée because building his tour guiding business and bringing his old family farm into the 21st C. is a family enterprise.

Emilia Rosso, Davide’s mother, was the oldest of three daughters and no sons of the last Barone di Cerami. When her father died a few years ago, he willed his title and lands (a feudo) directly to Davide, who added Rosso di Cerami to his last name Pirrera. The feudo, outside of Enna, has diminished lands because of the post-WWII agrarian reform. Davide has begun the process of making it a profitable enterprise with two grants from the EU which support cultural activities and organic farming, including the recultivation of grain species native to Sicily. With them, he has begun to turn the five centuries old country house into a modern farm and cultural center which in the future he hopes will also be a B&B.

His mother gives Sicilian cooking classes there and we were served the best food we ate in Sicily. He has also established the Demeter Prize in Photography, Poetry and Prose. We three were privileged to attend the first prize ceremony. It took place in the “chapel” of the feudo, a separate box-like structure which has been made into a modern meeting space, with a reception following in the cortile. The prize winning photographer was from Enna, the poet from Como in Northern Italy, and the short story writer from Palermo.
Palermo, which we visited a few days later, reached an apogee in the time of the Normans 1061 to 1282. Roger de Hauteville crossed the Straits of Messina in 1061 and gradually conquered the island. In 1071, Palermo fell. What Roger found was a polyglot city of Arabs (who had been ruling for two hundred years), Romans, Greeks and Jews. The Arabs were tolerant and inclusive of all the cultures they found when they arrived and Palermo was a thriving port. Roger, nominally Catholic, was often at odds with the Catholic Church. Roger didn't want to impose Catholicism on the various peoples he found and recognized that he could use the strength of the various “pagan” communities to support his secular power and counteract the power of the church. So he continued the policy of tolerance and included Arabs among his advisors. This led to a blooming of an arabo-norman style of architecture in Palermo and the publication in 1154 of The Book of Roger, maps of the then entire known world, drawn and written by an Arab scholar. And the world was round.

The most imposing building in Palermo is the Palazzo dei Normanni. In Phoenician and Roman times it was a series of defensive towers. The Arabs further fortified it and called it the Palazzo degli Emiri. The Normans enlarged it significantly and had it decorated by Byzantine and Arab artists. Of all the rooms in the palace, none is more beautiful than the Cappella Palatina commissioned by King Roger II. The cappella was begun in 1130 and finished in 1140. In it is a merging of Islamic, Byzantine and Latin symbols and belief. The top half of the room is totally covered in mosaics and tells the story of Saints Peter and Paul and the Old Testament. Among them is God giving life to Adam. The lower half of the room and floor is decorated in Islamic style with geometric designs in mosaics, marble and porphyry. The chapel glows with a warm golden light. High above in the central dome is a large image of the Pantocrator, very reminiscent of the Byzantine mosaic in Ravenna. The Pantocrator is repeated in the central apse to the right with the figures of Mary, Saint Anna and three other saints. To the left, opposite the central apse, but just as prominent, is a space decorated in Islamic style which housed the throne of King Roger II. The chapel is a tour de force which Roger II’s more devout son, William the Good, copied and enlarged in the Duomo of Monreale. Many consider Monreale the more beautiful site and certainly both must be seen.

We visited many other notable examples of Arabo-Norman architecture in Palermo, among them the churches of San Giovanni degli Eremiti, the Matorana, and San Cataldo. All worth a visit.

Another city we visited was incomparable and should not be missed. Siracusa was a Greek colony from about 750 B.C. and the center of Greek rule in Sicily until its conquest by Rome in 212 B.C. during the Second Punic War. Under Greek rule, Siracusa became the most important city in Sicily. From it, the Greeks gained control of most of Sicily except for Carthaginian colonies in the far west of the island. Fertile Sicily became the bread basket of Magna Graecia and Siracusa, a main port, prospered and grew. Greek temples were built across Sicily and one of the most notable is found today in the Duomo of Siracusa. This Catholic church is the present day iteration of the ancient 5th century Greek temple dedicated to Athena. The columns of the original Doric temple are clearly visible as part of the external facade, while on the inside, the church was built on and around the original temple structure. One can imagine better here what a complete Greek temple looked like than in most temple ruins. Moreover, the Duomo is on a large beautiful piazza, with another important church, The Church of St. Lucy, which houses Caravaggio’s painting of her martyrdom. The Duomo and Piazza Duomo are in the ancient residential area of Ortigia which also has the ruins of the Roman Temple of Apollo as well as many other Greek and Roman ruins. Siracusa is a truly lovely, walkable city with a palpable presence of the ancient past.

We can only reiterate Nina Matheson’s sense of how lucky the three of us were to have this unique trip, thanks to Davide Pirrera and his family.

--- Carol and Luigi Einaudi
TRE TESTIMONI

George Custodi gave a presentation and signing of his book at the ILP, last April 8th.

TEMPO INSTABILE CON PROBABILI SCHIARITE

This movie was viewed in collaboration with the Istituto Italiano di Cultura, on April 17th, at our Social Meeting. Prior to the screening Angela Tangianu, director of the Istituto, was introduced and greeted the audience and Stefania Amodeo gave a brief review of the film to the audience of about 100.
ICS SUMMER CAMP

The Italian Cultural Society/Italian Language Program summer camp is an immersion program designed around a variety of activities that will encourage your children to speak Italian through singing, cooking, playing indoor and outdoor Italian games, and completing art projects. Activities are held indoor and outdoor in the Battery Lane Park, behind the ICS main campus.

Latin Immersion Camp for 6th graders and up is also offered.

Find more details and learn about teens' week and Latin week online: http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/italian-language-program/summer-camps/

DAILY SCHEDULE for kids:

9:00am-9:15am       Drop off
9:15am-10:00am      Language class: reading, writing, singing, building vocabulary and grammatical structures (divided in two age groups)
10:00am-11:00am    Outdoor activities + small snack
11:10am-12:30pm    Creative project
12:30pm-1:00pm      Lunch
1:00pm- 1:30pm       Outdoor playing
1:40pm-2:50pm       Indoor games
2:50pm-3:30pm       Video – Dismissal

* Upon request possibility of earlier drop off and later pick up. Kids are to bring their own lunch and snack.

Each Monday, authentic warm Italian pizza will be served.

SUMMER CAMP WEEKS:

- June 20th -24th (kids)
- June 27th - July 1st (teens)
- July 5th -8th (kids)
- July 11th - 15th (kids)
- July 25th-29th (LATIN)
- August 22nd -26th (kids)

4827 Rugby Ave., Suite 301- Bethesda, MD 20814 * (301)215-7885 *language@italianculturalsociety.org  * Please, visit:  http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/italian-language-program/summer-camps/ *

The Italian Cultural Society of Washington D.C. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

NOW ENROLLING
MAY SOCIAL EVENT
5/22/16

The Italian Cultural Society of Washington D.C. & Istituto Italiano di Cultura in Washington D.C. present:
"GENOVA PER NOI"
MUSICA, POESIA, STORIA E TERRITORIO
Sunday, May 22nd 2016
3:00-5:00pm
Friendship Heights Village Center
4433 S Park Ave, Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Music by The i-Talians (songs of De André, Conte, Fossati, Tenco)
with a commentary on songs by Prof. Francesco Ciabattoni (Georgetown University)
author of La citazione è sintomo d'amore.

Historical overview by Francesca Casazza.

Poetry reading in Genoese dialect by Stefania Amodeo.

A superb overview of one of Italy's most beautiful cities, Genova per noi will take you inside the aristocratic palaces of Genoa's sixteenth-century wealthy merchants and through the mysterious alleys of its waterfront.

An important industrial harbor, Genoa always exerted a special appeal for sailors and noblemen. Genoa was the birthplace to Christopher Columbus, John Cabot, Niccolò Paganini and Guglielmo Marconi and the city has been a world powerhouse in commerce, exploration and art. Architect Renzo Piano redesigned the harbor area in 1992, restoring its old power in a new but classic style.

Fabrizio De André, Italy's most famous songwriter, immortalized Genoa in many of his songs. Nobel award winner Eugenio Montale also was born here, and his poetry sings of the beautiful landscape and the metaphysical breath that issues forth from Genoa, the neighboring region of Cinque Terre and the "Gulf of the poets," that inspired Lord Byron and Percy Bysshe Shelley.
ICS GALA

Gala 2016

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

We thank Istituto Italiano di Cultura in Washington for their collaboration

Honorary Guests:

Maestro Simeone Tartaglione
Pianist, Artistic Director and Orchestra Conductor

Alessandra Cuffaro
Violinist - First Italian Woman performing the 24 Capricci by Paganini in concert

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
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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, UNLOCKING GIORGIO MORANDI’S MYSTERIES: A Personal Perspective, 3000 Whitehaven Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008, May 11, 7:00-9:00 PM, http://www.iicwashington.esteri.it/iic_washington/en/gli_eventi/calendario/2016/05/unlocking-giorgio-morandi-s-mysteries.html


ICS + Italian Cultural Institute, GENOVA PER NOI: Musica, Poesia, Storia e Territorio, Friendship Heights Village Center, 4433 S. Park Ave, Chevy Chase, MD 20815, May 22, 3:00-5:00 PM, http://www.iicwashington.esteri.it/iic_washington/en/gli_eventi/calendario/2016/05/the-romantic-guitar-from-naples.html

Italian Cultural Institute, THE MUSEUMS DIPLOMACY: From Hieroglyphs To New Museum Languages and Joint Research, Italian Embassy, 3000 Whitehaven Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008, May 25, 6:00 PM, http://www.iicwashington.esteri.it/iic_washington/en/gli_eventi/calendario/2016/05/the-museums-diplomacy.html

COURSE ON UMBRIA, Smithsonian Associates, June 13, S. Dillon Ripley Center, www.smithsonianassociates.org

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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www.italianamericancommunications.org

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membership application

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meeting location

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