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)

September 18, Bethesda Library, 1:30-4:30 PM, NOTE UNUSUAL PLACE AND TIME. MEETING STARTS PROMPTLY: Prof. Mauro Resmini, UMD, expert on Italian cinema, will tell us about “NANNI MORETTI AND THE CRISIS OF THE ITALIAN LEFT.” Please confirm your attendance to RSVP@italianculturalsociety.org.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

First, thanks to outgoing president Arrigo Mongini for his generous leadership over the last three years. Beginning in June, our board has given me the privilege to be president of the ICS for this year. Arrigo is serving as vice-president. Our Social Meetings schedule for the year will be published in the October Poche Parole.

For now I want to tell you about the upcoming September meeting. First of all, our usual venue at Friendship Heights is undergoing renovations and will not be ready for this month’s meeting, so we are holding it in a room on the ground floor of the Bethesda Library at 7400 Arlington Rd, Bethesda, MD, 20814.

Secondly, the date is the third Sunday, September 18, but the time of the meeting is unusual: the 1 hour presentation will start promptly at 1:30PM, and the meeting will end at 4:30PM. Prof. Mauro Resmini, UMD, expert on Italian cinema, will tell us about “Nanni Moretti and the Crisis of the Italian Left.” As a consequence of the change of venue, our film-of-the-month has been cancelled as has the conversation hour. We will serve light refreshments and soft drinks after the presentation which will give us an opportunity to socialize. We want to welcome back students of the ILP and look forward to an exciting year.

Ronald Cappelletti
President
Poche Parole
SEPTEMBER 2016
Vol. XXXIII, No. 10
PRESERVING AND PROMOTING
ITALIAN LANGUAGE
AND CULTURE

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Mariah L. Ecie and family
Carla Morelli and family
Paul Dowling and family
Carlotta Amaduzzi and family
Alberto Fassinotti and family
Saki Ono and family
Yvonne Mizusawa and family
Daniela Golinelli and family
Elena Bisogni and family

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SEPTEMBER SOCIAL EVENT
9-18/16

Visiting Professor Mauro Resmini (above right), University of Maryland, expert on Italian Film, will make a presentation entitled “Nanni Moretti and the Crisis of the Italian Left”. Here is his description:

“Ever a keen observer of Italian politics, Nanni Moretti (photo at right above) has often been able to capture the paradoxes and impasses of the way we imagine leftist militancy and collective agency in our time. In Palombella rossa (1989) and La cosa (1990), Moretti focuses on the repercussions of the fall of the Berlin Wall on the Italian political scenario, with the crisis and final dissolution of the Italian Communist Party. When read as a diptych, the two films reveal the attempt to map the subjective position of ‘being a Communist’ in 1989. In the absence of any historical guarantee, Moretti explores the possibility of occupying such a position, tentatively locating it in a precarious balance between fiction and documentary”.

ICS GALA
5/20/16

On Friday evening, May 20, the Italian Cultural Society held its annual Gala at the Embassy of Italy, in the magnificent main hall. The theme of this year’s event was “Italy in Music”. We were entertained by the renowned violinist Alessandra Cuffaro, accompanied by her husband Maestro Simeone Tartaglione, pianist and conductor of the Catholic University Orchestra. Ms. Cuffaro, the first Italian woman performing the Paganini’s “24 Capricci” in concert, was introduced by ICS board member Olga Mancuso. We were also very fortunate in having the two winners of the Luciana Montanari Mendola competition for piano performance play selections. Daniel Kuehler, graduate student at Catholic University, played a selection from Chopin, and Alexander Tsereteli, a high school student from the Levine School of Music, played a truly virtuosic jazz-like piece. Together with the other student award winners, listed on the next page, they filled our evening with enthusiasm.

Several guests from the Embassy attended, led by the Minister Luca Franchetti Pardo, Charge’ d’Affaires, who during his speech, thanked the ICS members for their volunteer work and complimented our Language Program for its increased enrollment of students loving and willing to learn the Italian Language. First Counselor Carlo Romeo, First Secretary Christian Lungarotti, Franco Impalà, Director of Cultural Affairs, Rosella Bitti, Director of Education, and Angela Tangianu, Director of The Italian Cultural Institute, enjoyed the evening with us.

A number of our donors also attended, including Gianfranco Fornasini, Senior VP Scientific Affair of Sigma Tau Pharmaceuticals, who gave a short speech on the importance of their specialty drug research.

We are thankful to Sigma Tau, our Platinum sponsor, for donating $5,000 to this event. Other sponsors included: Via Umbria (Silver sponsor), Dolci Gelati (Dessert Sponsor), Il Canale, Colavita, Bethesda Travel Center, Sol Art Bed & Breakfast (Bronze sponsors)

We also want to thank our photographer David Cieslikowski, for donating his service, and we cannot forget our generous individual donors ($1,000 - $50): Dr. Romeo Segnan, Mrs. Ellen Coppley, Mr. Jack Whitcomb Rose, Nicholas Monaco, Joe Bangiolo, Paolo Vidoli.
Our Silent Auction (mostly organized by Board Member Chiara Gastaldi and Volunteer Manuela Di Muccio) was a successful fund raising, thanks to the following donors: C. Deferre (apartment in Sanremo), Beautiful Liguria, Sol’Art B&B, Arici winery, Italy & Golf, Castelvecchio Agriturismo, Café Milano, La Tomate Restaurant, Filomena Restaurant, Barcelona Wine Bar and Restaurant, ON TAP Magazine, Radici market, Arena Stage, Round House Theatre, EYMA Salon & Spa, Romeo Segnan (R. Lasner’s photography book and Patricia Segnan’s painting), David Cieslikowski (picture), Vittorio Felaco (painting & book by Michael G. Kent), Michela Mansuino (painting), Edelweiss Calcagno (3 paintings), Melitta Paterni Italian cashmere, Santa Maria Novella, Via Umbria. (More details on our website)

We thank our caterer, Oro Catering, which also helped in coordinating the furniture and logistics. And let’s not forget Gianluigi Dellaccio’s gelato service. Many of us went back for seconds!

The ICS board also wishes to thank our gala committee for their hard work and, and of course, Ambassador Claudio Bisogniero, Ambassador Armando Varricchio, their Assistant Donatella Verrone and all the Embassy staff for their support.

You can find more details and pictures on our website: http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/gala-2016/

**ICS GALA**

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Arrigo Mongini and Francesca Casazza

You can find more details and pictures on our website: http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/gala-2016/

**2016 ICS Scholarship Award Winners:**

Luciana Montanari Mendola Award for piano performance (college level): Daniel Kuehler, Catholic University of America; $1,000 (musical performances at the gala)

Luciana Montanari Mendola Award for piano performance (high school level): Alexander Tsereteli, Levine School of Music; $500 (musical performances at the gala)

Antonio and Elena De Luca Award for Latin and Greek: Elliott Rebello, University of Maryland; $1,000

Patricia Segnan Award for Art or Art History: Edelweiss Calcagno, University of Maryland; $1,000

Young Scientist Award: Elisa Fabbri, National Institutes of Health; $1,000

Maria Wilmeth Award for excellence in Italian:
1. Yuxi Liu, Duke Ellington School of the Arts: $500
2. Javier Antonio Ortiz, Springbrook High School: $500

Finally, the Cesarina Horing Awards rewarded 10 students selected by the university professors of American University, Georgetown University, University of MD, George Washington University, Catholic University and George Mason University.

You can find more details on our website: http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/get-involved/awards-scholarships/
ICS GALA
5/20/16
ICS GALA
5/20/16
On Sunday, May 22nd, we held our last Social Meeting before the summer, in collaboration with Istituto Italiano di Cultura in Washington D.C. “GENOVA PER NOI - MUSICA, POESIA, STORIA E TERRITORIO” had The i-Talians performing songs of genoese songwriters De André, Conte, Fossati, Tenco and Prof. Francesco Ciabattoni (Georgetown University), author of the book “La citazione è sintomo d’amore”, commenting the songs, selecting and reading poetry, and providing English translations of the well known Italian songs and poems performed. Fabrizio De André, Italy’s most famous songwriter, immortalized Genoa in many of his songs. Nobel award winner Eugenio Montale also was born there, 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.

It was my pleasure to provide pictures and an historical overview of my home town, its mysterious alleys and aristocratic palaces of Genoa’s sixteenth-century owned by wealthy merchants and bankers of that time, today a Unesco World Heritage Site since 2006. Genoa, today an important industrial harbor, is the birthplace to Christopher Columbus, John Cabot, Niccolò Paganini and contemporary Architect Renzo Piano.

Stefania Amodeo, also from Genoa, read “Zena de neutte da-i monti”, a poem by E. Firpo in Genoese dialect. The Friendship Heights Village Center room was filled with more than 120 people enjoying the event very much.

Francesca Casazza
This summer, our instructors, Carlo Ellena, Maura Maffia and Nicoletta Nencioli, enjoyed teaching their classes every morning and every evening, until the end of July. Nicoletta recently joined our team. She is a professional journalist for ANSA, and has been training for teaching since she discovered this new passion over the past few years.

Four weeks of Summer Camps (also for teenagers this year!) brought a lot of joy to our school! A special thanks to the instructors Cecilia Volterra and Chiara Gastaldi. Chiara is also a new ICS Board Member and has been a great help both for ICS events and ILP kids’ activities.

Finally, we would like to congratulate our instructor, Ambra Peruzza, who had a beautiful baby girl this summer! We are also happy to announce that Ambra will be back teaching.

Now we are looking forward to seeing all of our students back at our school, kids and adults, and welcoming the new ones.

This Fall schedule includes all levels of classes, as always. We will also 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 in Italy, participants will enjoy local traditions, history and natural interests of Italy’s various regions.

Our instructor Silvana De Luca will teach about the north west of Italy and Puglia, and Camilla Presti will teach about Venice in the Renaissance and the Dolomites. Both of their courses include history, literature, art and more. These are not only courses for people who want to travel, but advanced level classes of Italian culture with grammar review. You also can plan a trip to Lazio, Sicily, Liguria, Piedmont and Puglia, through our contacts at any time, and without attending any previous class.

On our website, you will also find recommendations about Italian language schools in Italy.

Back to our local reality, Silvana will also teach a class on the history of the Italian language, Maura will offer cooking classes in the evening, morning and every other Saturday (a fun opportunity to practice the language, or just learning precious secrets of the Italian cuisine: the instructor will give directions in both English and Italian). Carlo Ellena will teach another Food wine pairing class, while Antonella Salvatore, in the morning, will teach Itinerari Italiani, a tour in the Italy of yesterday, today and tomorrow. Cristiana Fabiani will teach an intermediate grammar review class with notions of geography, and Sofia Caligiuri will start a lunch time one hour classes of Italian Culture, starting with Storia 1. Also two “book club” kind of classes (with some grammar review on request) are offered.

Prof. Luigi De Luca will teach Latin I, and Latin II for the students who attended Latin I last Spring.

Kids classes will mostly take place on Friday afternoon and Saturday all day (starting at 2 years of age), but other days we hold private and semi-private classes from beginners to advanced levels of Italian as a second language.

You can find the Fall schedule online. Please know that we also offer ONLINE COURSES and TUTORIALS now, and we are launching COURSES AT NIH, COURSES AT NIAF, and COURSES in FREDERICK.

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!
It has been a pleasure to spend 4 weeks with the kids. Their enthusiasm, joy and willingness to work made us proud to teach them Italian!

Together we learned, studied and played. Our goal was to help them to improve their knowledge of the language and culture, through outdoor and indoor games, cooking, creative projects and through the use of fun textbooks, in a natural and stress-free environment.

We learned body parts, animals, colors and much more!

Treasure hunt, solving Italian riddles!

We painted animals with our hands!

We prepared and ate gelato and pizza!
LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

Please visit our web page http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/upcoming-events/
Also, check 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


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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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
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