**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).

**October 23, Bethesda Chevy Chase Regional Service Center, 1:30-4:30 PM, NOTE UNUSUAL PLACE AND TIME. MEETING STARTS PROMPTLY:** Prof. Richard Spear examines a high-profile case, Thwyates v Sotheby’s, which was tried at the High Court of Justice in London late in 2014. Please confirm your attendance to RSVP@italianculturalsociety.org.

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**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

Many thanks to Prof. Mauro Resmini for an interesting presentation and discussion of the plight of the Italian Left as treated in the films of Nanni Moretti at the September meeting.

For now I want to tell you about the upcoming October meeting. First of all, we will not be at usual venue Friendship Heights for this month’s meeting. Instead we are holding it in the Conference Room West on the second floor of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Service Center at 4805 Edgemoor Lane, Bethesda, MD, 20814. Secondly, the date is the fourth Sunday, October 23, and the time of the meeting is unusual: we open at 1:30 PM with an Italian conversation hour, and the presentation will start at 3:00 PM. There will be no movie. The meeting will end at 4:30 PM. We are very pleased to have Prof. Richard Spear (UMD) connoisseur of the baroque painter Caravaggio. Prof. Spear served as an expert witness on behalf of Sotheby’s in the 2014 case of Thwyates vs Sotheby’s dealing with the authenticity of the painting Card Sharps and will tell us many interesting things about that case. Light refreshments and soft drinks will be served after the presentation.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Ronald Cappelletti
President

Amatriciana With Love Event on September 28, 2016
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Gerald Jordan & Family
Abigail Paulsen & Family

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OCTOBER SOCIAL EVENT
9-18/16

In this illustrated lecture, art historian Richard Spear examines a high-profile case, Thwyates v Sotheby’s, which was tried at the High Court of Justice in London late in 2014. Spear was a key Expert Witness on behalf of Sotheby’s, who were sued by the consignor of the painting for negligence because the auction house catalogued and sold his picture as a copy after Caravaggio’s famous Card Sharps in Fort Worth. The accusation arose after it was bought at auction by noted Caravaggio scholar Sir Denis Mahon who, after having the painting cleaned, declared that it was not a copy but Caravaggio’s first, autograph version. In discussing how both the technical and stylistic evidence support Sotheby’s rather than Mahon’s opinion, Spear offers a mini-lesson on Caravaggio connoisseurship.

Award winning author of more than 100 scholarly articles and several books in a distinguished academic career, Richard Spear, currently with UMD, earned his M.F.A. and PhD. degrees from Princeton University. His most recent book is Dipingere per profitto. Le vite economiche dei pittori nella Roma del Seicento (2016). He has served as a consultant to the Prince of Wales Museum, Bombay, on its collection of European paintings. During 2012-14, he served as an Expert Witness in a case concerning the authenticity of the “Mahon version” of Caravaggio’s Card Sharps (tried in the Royal Courts of Justice, London). Currently he is Affiliate Research Professor at the University of Maryland, College Park.

For parking info see here: http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/bcc/directions.html
The September meeting, held at Bethesda Library, featured a presentation by Prof. Mauro Resmini (UMD) who used the films of famed Italian director, Nanni Moretti, to describe the crisis experienced by the Italian Left, specifically the Italian Communists, following the demise of the Soviet Union. “What does it mean to be an Italian Communist?” was the question addressed by Moretti in two films spanning a period just after and well after that crisis event. And Resmini made the case that in viewing these films we gain an understanding not only of the present situation, but also of what the Italian version of Communism was ever all about. The presentation elicited many interesting and lively comments from the audience.

SEPTEMBER SOCIAL EVENT
9/18/16
AMATRICIANA WITH LOVE EVENT
9/28/16

L’evento di beneficenza AMATRICIANA WITH LOVE del 28 settembre è stato un successo. Oltre una cinquantina di persone si sono riunite in una bella casa a Kalorama, per una deliziosa cena a base di pasta all’Amatriciana (6 chili) divinamente cucinata dalla nostra insegnante Maura Guida Maffia. Vino ed altre specialità italiane sono state offerte e preparate dagli organizzatori e da alcuni dei partecipanti tra cui studenti, importanti giornalisti, professori, imprenditori e rappresentanti di Italian Cultural Society, SAIS Johns Hopkins University, COMITES, US-Italy Global Affairs forum.

Lo scopo era la raccolta di fondi per la Croce Rossa Italiana, per il recente terremoto che la notte del 24 agosto ha devastato i paesi di Amatrice, Accumoli e Arquata del Tronto. Gli organizzatori (Nina Gardner Olivieri, padrona di casa, Daniele Moro, Francesca Casazza, Maura Guida Maffia e Manuela di Muccio), tutti i partecipanti ed altri generosi donatori - presenti e non - hanno contribuito alla raccolta fondi: siamo arrivati a $5,530! Mercoledì 5 ottobre l’intero importo è stato girato al conto bancario della Croce Rossa Italiana.

"È stata una cena improvvisata per una buona causa, che si è rivelata una piacevole occasione di incontrare vecchi e nuovi amici! Grazie a tutti per aver reso questo evento una serata speciale!"

Alla prossima,
Francesca Casazza
AMATRICIANA WITH LOVE EVENT
9/28/16
The great lakes of northern Italy are, proceeding from east to west: Garda, Como, Maggiore, and Orta. Less well known is the much smaller Lago d’Iseo, situated about halfway between Garda and Como in the region of Lombardia on the border of the provinces of Bergamo and Brescia. It is almost surrounded by mountains and it even has an island with a 400 meter high mountain – Monte Isola, the largest in-lake island in southern and central Europe. The lake has 15 towns, three of them on Monte Isola, which itself has about 15 frazioni. Cars are not allowed on the island. There are some small public buses and delivery vehicles and bicycles, as well as motor scooters that make more noise than an equivalent number of autos. The company Navigazione Lago d’Iseo provides scheduled passenger service by boat connecting the towns on the lake shore and on Monte Isola.

As might be expected, the tourist trade is entrenched, but it has not spoiled the beauty of the landscape. Some of the towns, especially on the northwestern shore have some significant industrial development but the scenery is still great. Navigazione Lago d’Iseo, as well as provincial and local governments, have promoted tourism and have published brochures on local history and culture, including pre-Roman settlement. The installation artist Christo built a temporary floating pathway (passerella) this June, connecting the lake shore with Monte Isola, reportedly resulting in an increase of 30% in tourism even after the passerella was dismantled.

You can dine on fish (there are 20 odd species in the lake) at the many inexpensive restaurants and you can find some excellent hotel accommodation and campgrounds. One example which my wife and I experienced personally is the Relais Mirabella on a hill overlooking the lake in the village of Clusane, just west of the town of Iseo.

Lago d’Iseo is less than about a two hour drive from Malpensa airport and is even closer to Bergamo’s airport. I hope some of our ICS members have a chance to visit this beautiful part of Italy.

Naturally, the industry in the region is well established, but it has not spoiled the beauty of the landscape. Some of the towns, especially on the northwestern shore have some significant industrial development but the scenery is still great. Navigazione Lago d’Iseo, as well as provincial and local governments, have promoted tourism and have published brochures on local history and culture, including pre-Roman settlement. The installation artist Christo built a temporary floating pathway (passerella) this June, connecting the lake shore with Monte Isola, reportedly resulting in an increase of 30% in tourism even after the passerella was dismantled.

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LAGO D’ISEO
BY ARRIGO MONGINI

Lago d’Iseo all’alba visto dal Relais Mirabella sulla collina dietro Clusane

Monte Isola vista da Sulzano
This Fall Term, Session 1, so far we had 37 courses opening, with 264 students enrolling + 28 tutorials. Seven of those are children’s courses. A few pictures of the Preschool Italian Immersion (4-5 yrs old) class are below.

On October 24th, Session 2 starts for morning classes (twice per week, 5 weeks). We will be offering the continuation of what is being taught now, as usual: Beginners 2 (A1), Intermediate 2 (B2), Itinerari Italiani (B1-C1), Italy today (B2-C1), Literature, grammar & conversation (B2-C1), Advanced Grammar & Conversation (B2-C2), Letteratura classica e contemporanea (C2), Elementary level conversation (A1,A2), Intermediate level conversation (B1,B2), Advanced level conversation (C1,C2).

For the evening, Food/ Wine Pairing starts on November 1st and ends at the Restaurant Amici Miei, in Potomac, on December 6th.

Cooking with Maura, three classes session on October 13-20-27, at 12:30-3:30 is waiting for more students! So is the Wednesdays 6:00-9:00pm on a drop-in basis. Do not miss your chance to learn the secrets behind genuine Italian dishes. Also, Cooking with Maura at your home can be an original idea for birthday parties or a fun get together with friends at your home!

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

Un caro saluto,
Francesca Casazza
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


Italian Cultural Institute, TERZO TORNEO QUADRANGOLARE DI CALCETTO: The Providence Community Center, Fairfax, November 5, 6-8 PM, http://italiansindc.com/torneo-quadrangolare-di-calcetto/

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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