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)

November 20, Friendship Heights Village Center, 1-5:30 PM, Join us for a film, conversation hour and a presentation from Mr. Richard McCarthy, director of Slow Food USA.

Please confirm your attendance to RSVP@italianculturalociety.org.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

On a lovely fall Sunday afternoon drenched in the colors of the season one could perhaps be excused for missing an ICS Social Meeting, but over 50 of us did not miss something special in Richard Spear’s masterly presentation of connoisseurship in discussing Caravaggio’s luminous art.

A brief report is included in this issue. It will be a little cooler and the fall colors past their prime, so be sure to come to the Nov. meeting, this time at our usual Friendship Heights VC venue starting with a film at 1:00 pm, a conversation hour at 2:00, and a presentation at 3:00 by the director (from NY) of Slow Food USA, Mr. Richard McCarthy.

We are collaborating with the US-Italy Global Affairs Forum and the Italian Cultural Institute of the Embassy of Italy in this effort. The talk will involve a topic related to the Slow Food and/ or Terra Madre projects.

Light refreshments and soft drinks will be served after the presentation (sorry, FHVC now has a no red wine policy! Sigh.)

We look forward to seeing you there.

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NOVEMBER SOCIAL EVENT
11/20/16

You’ve never heard of the world-wide Slow Food Movement? Well, for starters, have a look at this website: https://www.slowfoodusa.org/about-us and then come to the Nov. 20 Social Meeting at the FHVC to meet Mr. Richard McCarthy coming from NY to tell us all about it in a presentation co-sponsored by the ICS, the US-Italy Global Affairs Forum and the Embassy’s ICI.

Here are some key words: Good, Clean, Fair food; School gardens, Slow meat, Biodiversity. The recent Expo in Milan featured the Terra Madre movement, so you will learn about that as well.

We are sure you will find it interesting.
The Thwyates v Sotheby’s case cost $30M all told, and Prof. Richard Spear’s contribution was important in helping Sotheby’s reject the claim that the version of Caravaggio’s Card Sharps purchased by Sir Denis Mahon was the artist’s original. In a fascinating lecture full of telling technical and especially artistic details, Spear made clear how one goes about the tricky business of distinguishing between the genius displayed by the true artist and the copyist. A rather convincing example he used is shown below in which the airy “featheriness” of the plume in the Kimbell version on the left (considered the original) is compared with the Mahon version on the right. Similarly, the fleshy ear of the figure on the left is noticeably more subtle in rendering than the rather lifeless ear on the right. About 50 people attended the meeting held in the comfortable venue of the BCC-RSC.
RENZI A WASHINGTON
NICOLETTA NENCIOLI

Una visita di pochi giorni nella capitale americana che sono valsi al premier Matteo Renzi la riconferma della forte amicizia tra Italia e Stati Uniti, la dimostrazione di un rapporto di autentica stima reciproca e condivisione di idee con lo stesso presidente, Barack Obama ed i vertici dell’Amministrazione Usa, ed un endorsement senza precedenti per il ‘si’ al referendum costituzionale di dicembre in Italia.

Renzi rappresenta una nuova generazione di leader non solo in Italia ma in Ue e nel mondo, ha detto Obama dopo l’incontro con Renzi, auspicando che resti al timone anche se vincera’ il ‘no’: “Io tifo per lui, per le sue riforme coraggiose e secondo me deve restare in politica.

Un feeling particolare tra i due leader e’ stato testimoniato anche dal fatto che il presidente Usa uscente ha dedicato l’ultima cena di Stato al premier italiano:“Abbiamo tenuto il meglio per la fine”, ha detto Obama, non lesinando complimenti: Sono particolarmente grato per la partnership con il mio amico Matteo, guardatelo e’ bello giovane, ha lanciato una visione del progresso che affonda le sue radici non nelle paure della gente, ma nelle speranze e poi gli piace twittare.

Accolto in una mattina dal sole splendente, il 18 ottobre scorso, nel South Lawn della Casa Bianca insieme alla moglie Agnese Landini, da Barack e Michelle Obama, ospitato ad un lunch al dipartimento di Stato, e infine alla cena di Stato alla White House, Renzi non e’ stato da meno.

Nel suo brindisi alla cena, il primo ministro ha ringraziato entrambi gli Obama “per questo incredibile onore e privilegio”, ha paragonato lo stesso Obama ad un ‘maestro del Rinascimento’ che lavora con i suoi allievi per migliorare il mondo: Ci hai dato l’opportunità di lavorare insieme per migliorare il mondo e pensare ad un futuro di speranza, ha detto Renzi ringraziando il presidente Usa per i suoi 8 anni di servizio.

Nicoletta Nencioli (translated by Ronald Cappelletti)
RENZI A WASHINGTON
10/18/16
Il 21 ottobre è stata una serata speciale all’ambasciata d’Italia a Washington: nei saloni della nostra rappresentanza diplomatica è stato tagliato il nastro inaugurale di una mostra unica dal titolo “La Moda italiana per la Sposa: Tradizione e Potere del Velo”.

Presentata ed allestita nell’ambito delle celebrazioni della Settimana della Lingua Italiana nel mondo.

“La lingua italiana sta godendo un ‘nuovo Rinascimento’ nel mondo e negli Stati Uniti - ha osservato l’ambasciatore d’Italia nella capitale Usa, Armando Varricchio - e quest’anno è stato deciso di onorarla seguendo il tema della ‘creatività’. La storia e la tradizione del velo da sposa sono un’emblema del ‘made in Italy’.”

“La lingua italiana è certificazione di qualità di per sé’ - ha proseguito Varricchio - proprio come i veli da sposa, in cui tutto deve essere perfetto, dal taglio ai materiali, per rendere la donna principessa per almeno un giorno nella vita.” Organizzato dall’ambasciata d’Italia e dall’Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Washington DC, in collaborazione con Italians in DC, the Georgetown University Italian Research Institute, and the D.I.V.E., l’evento ospita una carrellata di preziosissimi veli. Tutte le opere sono contemporanee e sono state disegnate da Alison Miller, che cura la produzione dei suoi veli esclusivamente in Italia.

I veli vengono infatti creati uno alla volta ed in esemplari irripetibili dalle abili mani di ricamatrici e tessitrici della penisola, in tessuti impalpabili e delicatissimi, di colori eterei ed inafferrabili.

Ad aprire la serata inaugurale dell’esibizione è stata Angela Tangianu, direttrice dell’Istituto italiano di cultura.
Eleven more classes just opened for Session 2, during the last week of October. On November 8th, Carlo Ellena will start Food/Wine Pairing - a five week course - that will end on December 13th, with a special piemontese dinner, with wonderful wine from Piedmont, at the restaurant Amici Miei, in Potomac. We expect a great success like in the spring session, which ended with a very tasty Sardinian dinner. On November 22nd, Latin 2 will also start.

Finally, I would like to remind you of our new online classes, and Cooking with Maura, taking place on a drop-in basis, or as a three week course.

After the end of this session, as we have done in the past three years, we are going to offer extra classes again, on a drop-in basis, to let students review what they have learned, and to let new people try out our courses with the December special drop-in fee of $30 for a two hour class. Our instructors will be offering listening comprehension practice through videos and movies, conversation or grammar review, to catch up with the hardest structures.

October is an important month for us, particularly the week of the Italian language, October 17th-24th. It was a pleasure to participate in the numerous events planned for this week at the Embassy, one of which is described by my colleague Nicoletta in the preceding articles. We also had the honor to be invited by the Embassy to the White House South Lawn, for the welcoming ceremony for the Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, visiting President Obama, on October 18th.

On October 14th, Cristiana Fabiani, Chiara Melucci and I presented the ICS and the Language Program at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, in occasion of the NIAF 41st Gala Weekend. Cristiana entertained an audience of about 30 people with a fun class that taught the basics of our language. Chiara briefly illustrated our classes for children.

Chiara joined our team this Fall. She is from Genoa, she studied classics and received a degree in Architecture at the University of Genoa. After working for fifteen years in the architectural field between Rome, Milan and London, she developed a passion for teaching ten years ago. In 2012-2013, she enjoyed teaching “Italian through Art” at the Georgetown Montessori School, to children aged 3-6.

We welcome Chiara and all our new students.

We hope all of you enjoy l’Autunno and its beautiful colors!

Francesca Casazza
Director of the Italian Language Program
FROM THE ILP
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/en/gli_eventi/calendario/2016/11/for-firenze-per-firenze.html


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

City of Gaithersburg, PETER AND THE WOLF - at 311 Kent Square Road, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878-5727, November 5, 2:30 and 4:30 pm, http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/calendars/community-calendar/2016/11/peter-and-the-wolf


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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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