



PRESERVING AND PROMOTING
ITALIAN LANGUAGE
AND CULTURE

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)

Festa Di Natale, December 11, Friendship Heights Village Center, 4:30-8:00 PM, Like the previous years, it is our annual potluck dinner (please read details on what to bring in the flyer on page 3). We organized it in collaboration with Le D.I.V.E. and MaPaCi of Italians in D.C., who will offer entertainment for children. Our guest will be pianist Daniel Kuelher, recipient of the ICS 2016 scholarship award. This year we will also host the D.I.V.E. Italian handicraft market. Please consider a donation of at least \$5 to help us defray the costs for this event. Please RSVP by completing the online form at <http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/natale-2016/>. Call 301.215.7885 if you need assistance.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The momentous American presidential election of 2016 will be over soon when the chosen Electors select the next president of the United States on Dec. 19th. We can wish that they do so wisely. During this month there is the Referendum in Italy on a series of reforms meant to improve the operation and efficiency of that government, but which, for better or worse, has become a referendum on the current Prime Minister, Matteo Renzi. We can wish that our Italian friends also make a wise choice (see breaking news on p.8). Meanwhile, the activities of the Italian Cultural Society go on. Our November meeting featured a presentation by Richard McCarthy, Executive Director of Slow Food USA, describing the various initiatives of a world-wide movement to preserve traditional foods and the methods of preparing and consuming them in the context of fairness and sustainability. In this issue Chiara Gastaldi has written an eloquent article about the event. Our next event (see flyer in this issue) is the annual Festa di Natale taking place on Dec. 11 at FHVC. Along with our children, we are looking forward to a visit by Babbo Natale, La Befana and the Folletti to distribute presents and good cheer while we enjoy a pot-luck meal and a piano performance by special guest Daniel Kuehler, one of our 2016 Luciana Montanari-Mentola Award winners for performance. Space is limited, so please be sure to make your reservation: www.italianculturalsociety.org/natale-2016/. See you there!



November Social Meeting

Ronald Cappelletti
President



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WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

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Nancy Hurst
Judy Nowakowski

FAMILY

Pasquariello-Unroe Family
Adriana G. Rota & Family

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Festa Di Natale.....	3
November Social Event.....	4-5
Piemontese Event.....	6
Amatriciana With Love.....	7
Breaking News.....	8
From the ILP.....	9
Local Events of Interest.....	10
Advertisements.....	11

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Poche Parole

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FESTA DI NATALE

12/11/16



The Italian
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FESTA DI NATALE

December 11th, 2016 at 4:30

FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS
VILLAGE CENTER, 4433 S. Park
Avenue - Chevy Chase, MD 20815

4:30PM Kids will be entertained by Le
D.I.V.E & MaPaCi with Arts & Crafts activities

4:45PM Daniel Kuehler's piano performance
of classical arias and holiday music

5:30PM Children's choir followed by Babbo Natale, Befana
and the Elves for gifts distribution. (Parents must bring labelled
gifts and drop them off at the door by 5:00PM)

3:30 - 8:30 Mercatino delle D.I.V.E.: Italian jewels, handicrafts, cookies

6:00PM POTLUCK
Last names from A to F,
please bring meats
or casseroles. Last
names from G to M,
salad or fruit; N to Z,
pasta or rice dish
ICS will provide
prosciutto, desserts and drinks.

6:30 RAFFLE: Lotteria di Natale
(Prizes from our sponsors! Buy tickets at the door.)



RSVP

To help us plan refreshments
and children's crafts, please
specify names number of
adults and children in your
party, by Dec. 5th. **RSVP by
completing the online form at**
[http://
www.italianculturalsociety.org/
natale-2016/](http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/natale-2016/)
Call 301-215-7885 if you need
assistance.
**Space is limited and RSVP is
required, also to come to the
mercato delle D.I.V.E..**



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NOVEMBER SOCIAL EVENT: SLOW FOOD USA

CHIARA GASTALDI

At the November Social Meeting, the Italian Cultural Society had the honor to host Richard McCarthy, Executive Director of Slow Food USA who came directly from New York to give a presentation about sustainability, local food, and biodiversity. Mr. McCarthy underlined the importance of supporting local producers and building a good, clean and fair food system that serves everybody.

He also talked about important Slow Food initiatives such as Terra Madre, a big conference/marketplace organized in partnership with Salone del Gusto in Turin, Italy; Slow meat, an international event which aims to turn away from the tyranny of cheap meat and "The ark of Taste", a living catalog of delicious and distinctive foods facing extinction: "By identifying and championing these foods we keep them in production and on our plates" stated McCarthy during the talk.

Another interesting project is The National School Garden Program which involves more than 20 schools around the United States. In particular, one of these schools was highlighted during this event thanks to the participation of Niraj Ray, Founder & CEO of Cultivate the City. This non-profit association is collaborating with Miner Elementary School, Washington DC to provide "food education" to children and parents through the creation of a school garden.

The last speaker, Mike Koch, director of Firefly Farms and FreshFarms Market, shared his experience and delicious cheeses as a local producer located in Maryland demonstrating his full support for the Slow Food mission. The presentations inspired many interesting questions and comments from an appreciative audience of about 100 guests.

The event was made possible thanks to strong partnerships with the Istituto Italiano di Cultura Washington DC and the US-Italy Global Affairs Forum. During this event, we had the opportunity to thank Angela Tangianu for her wonderful job in directing the Istituto Italiano di Cultura of the Italian Embassy, and for being very supportive of the local organizations like ours. It was a pleasure working with her.

If you want to learn more about the world-wide Slow Food Movement, don't miss the next Slow Food event at SAIS - Johns Hopkins University on February 8th, 2017. On this occasion, IDB, IMF and World Bank experts and economists will discuss food sustainability, agricultural issues and international development challenges.

Did you miss this event? Watch the video on youtube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYIPNXOVVTO&t=74s>)!

L'Italian Cultural Society of Washington DC ha avuto l'onore di ospitare Richard McCarthy, direttore esecutivo di Slow Food USA arrivato direttamente da New York a parlare di sostenibilità, cibo locale e biodiversità. McCarthy ha sottolineato l'importanza di sostenere i produttori locali e di costruire collettivamente un sano e giusto sistema alimentare che possa divenire un bene comune.

McCarthy ha inoltre promosso alcune iniziative molto importanti di Slow Food come Terra Madre, una grande conferenza - marketplace organizzata in collaborazione con il Salone del Gusto di Torino, Italia; Slow Meat, un evento internazionale che si propone di allontanarsi dalla tirannia della carne a basso costo e infine The Ark of Taste, un catalogo vivente di cibi unici e caratteristici in via d'estinzione: "Per identificare e difendere questi alimenti è importante mantenere la loro presenza a valle della filiera produttiva ma anche e soprattutto sulle nostre tavole" ha affermato McCarthy durante la presentazione.

Un altro progetto interessante è il Programma Nazionale degli orti nelle scuole che coinvolge più di 20 scuole in tutti gli Stati Uniti. In particolare, il progetto di una di queste scuole è stato messo in risalto durante l'evento grazie alla partecipazione di Niraj Ray, fondatore e CEO di Cultivating the City. Questa associazione non-profit sta collaborando con Miner Elementary School, Washington DC per fornire la cosiddetta "educazione alimentare" per bambini e genitori attraverso la creazione di un orto scolastico.

L'ultimo ospite, Mike Koch - direttore di Firefly Farms e FreshFarms Market, ha condiviso la propria esperienza e deliziosi formaggi come produttore locale situato nel Maryland, dimostrando il suo pieno sostegno alla missione di Slow Food. Le presentazioni hanno ispirato molte domande e commenti interessanti da un pubblico numeroso di circa 100 ospiti.

L'evento è stato reso possibile grazie alla partnership consolidata con The US-Italy Global Affairs Forum e l'Istituto Italiano di Cultura dell'Ambasciata Italiana di Washington DC.

Durante questo evento, abbiamo avuto l'opportunità di ringraziare Angela Tangianu per il suo ottimo lavoro nel dirigere l'Istituto Italiano di Cultura dell'Ambasciata Italiana e per essere una straordinaria sostenitrice delle organizzazioni locali come la nostra.

Se volete saperne di più su Slow Food, non perdetevi il prossimo evento di Slow Food a SAIS - Johns Hopkins University (Washington DC) l'8 febbraio 2017, ci sarà un live dell'intera conferenza. In questa occasione, economisti ed esperti provenienti dal Fondo Monetario Internazionale e dalla Banca Mondiale discuteranno su tematiche come la sostenibilità alimentare, le questioni agricole e le sfide allo sviluppo internazionale.



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NOVEMBER SOCIAL EVENT: SLOW FOOD USA

11/20/16





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PIEMONTESE DINNER AT AMICI MIEI

Do not miss the last class of Food Wine pairing, Friday Nov. 16th at 7:00pm, focused on the region Piedmont. This class will be accompanied by a special Piemontese dinner at the Restaurant Amici Mieì.



**The Italian
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Food/Wine Pairing:

Amici Mieì
RISTORANTE

The Italian Language Program has the pleasure to present the following course, in collaboration with Amici Mieì Restaurant:

COURSE TAUGHT IN ITALIAN AND/OR ENGLISH

This course will focus on Italian dessert wines,
and conclude with a food & wine pairing session
at the restaurant Amici Mieì.

COURSE DETAILS

INSTRUCTOR: Carlo Ellena

Tuesdays, Nov. 15 – Dec. 16

6:30 PM-8:30 PM

****WHERE: 4827 Rugby Ave., Suite 301**

Bethesda, MD 20814

(4 week course - no class on Nov. 22)

Tuition: \$235.00

Drop-in for the classes in Bethesda: \$50

Drop-in for the dinner/final class: \$100

** Last meeting (12/16)
will take place at the
Restaurant Amici Mieì, at
1093 Seven Locks Rd.,
Potomac, 20854

Tuition includes
material and final
dinner at the
Amici Mieì Ristorante



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AMATRICIANA WITH LOVE



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SAIS Italian Society

CHARITY DINNER FOR CENTRAL ITALY

AMATRICIANA WITH LOVE

A future for Central Italy

All proceeds will be donated to the Italian Red Cross for the
victims of the earthquake in Central Italy

DECEMBER 14TH

7:00 PM

Venue: private home in Dupont Circle

Address will be provided upon registration.

Limited spaces available.

**Minimum donation* \$60 - \$30 for students
\$100* includes 1 raffle ticket & 1 *Nursia Beer***

**Donations are 100% tax deductible*

Guests are invited to bring wine, appetizers or beverages
Organizers and sponsors will donate pasta all'amatriciana, traditional dishes
from Central Italy and Christmas raffle prizes.



RSVP and donations at

<http://www.usitalyforum.com/upcoming-events>



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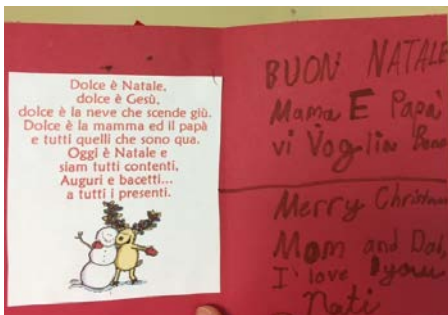
BREAKING NEWS

RONALD CAPPELLETTI

Italy votes "No" on Referendum and Renzi resigns:

In an historic election on Sunday, Dec. 4th Italians cast their votes in a Referendum on a complicated series of constitutional reforms aimed at streamlining the government proposed by PM Matteo Renzi. In a move now considered a serious political error, Renzi promised that he would resign if the Referendum failed, and this triggered a reaction in which the vote came to mean whether Italy approved of his management of the country, especially in light of the weak economy. Well, the turnout was high, 65.5%, and the result was a resounding "No!" by 59.11%. And, true to his word, Matteo Renzi on Monday offered his resignation to the Italian President. The move to take responsibility for the defeat was unusual for a politician anywhere, and PM Renzi is to be commended for his integrity. A study of the political map shows, however, that Renzi was right in saying that if the voter turnout was high the Referendum would win. In fact, the "Yes" vote was highest in provinces of Italy (in northern regions) where the turnout was highest, but their contribution was clearly not significant enough to defeat the "No" vote. The "No" vote won in the ten most populated provinces in the country. In effect, the "No" vote was a vote for the status quo in terms of the Italian governmental system...which is notoriously weak: this will be the end of the fourth government since 2010. But it also signaled a widespread, populist dissatisfaction with government seen in other parts of the world, including the USA. Although Renzi's Democratic Party still controls the legislature, the populist Five Star movement led by Beppe Grillo has called for immediate elections. What happens in the next few days is up to Italian president Sergio Mattarella.

KIDS PREPARE FOR NATALE AT THE ILP



Kids class and the pictures of Christmas cards





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FROM THE ILP

FRANCESCA CASAZZA

Fall term ended and while some students are enjoying their long break, others are attending our "December special drop-in classes," extra and fun classes to keep practicing the language or try different teachers and different kinds of classes.

The Winter Term schedule is online and registration is open. Courses will start on Friday January 6th, with our kids learning about la Befana, among other things!

New beginners classes start in the evening and also at a new time: 1:30-3:30pm, on Tuesday-Thursday. Intermediate and advanced levels can enjoy a new 5 week course of Art History, at 12:15-1:15. Arte 1 (B1-C2) -that will be followed by Arte 2 and 3- is part of a new series that represent a fascinating journey into the Italian culture, with the objective to lead students to better understand the country and its people through the study of the cultural elements that defined their character: History, Geography, Literature, Music-Cinema-Theatre History and Art History.

We are offering other new courses like Creative writing (B1-C2) and Book reading with the author (B2-C2) with Maura Guida-Maffia, and Live from Italy with ANSA Journalist Nicoletta Nencioli Aiken.

Camilla Presti's Virtual Tour will introduce you to the region Emilia Romagna. Silvana De Luca will teach about the culture of the North of Italy, history of the Italian language, and Italian through cinema.

Different levels of "Book club" reading classes will introduce you to authors like Leonardo Sciascia, Dino Buzzati and Antonio Pennacchi.

Itinerari Italiani, Italy today, Viaggio gastronomico and more Courses+trips are waiting for you, as well as our recommended trips and ideas to study in Italy. Check on our website, under the menu "Language Program."

Latin 1 and Latin 2 will be offered again, for adults and younger students. Last but not least, you can enjoy Cooking with Maura and the option of scheduling a cooking session at your home.

All children's courses will continue with growing participation, including Preschool Italian Immersion for 2-3 year olds, thanks to our creative and sweet Cecilia Volterra, who entertains, stimulates and teaches our language to toddlers and children up to 13 years old. See photos of Christmas cards made by students on the previous page.

Buone Feste!

Francesca Casazza

Director of the Italian Language Program



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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, 29th EDITION OF THE EU FILM SHOWCASE: AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center, December 1-18, http://www.iicwashington.esteri.it/iic_washington/en/gli_eventi/calendario/2016/12/29th-edition-of-the-eu-film-showcase.html

Italian Cultural Institute, RESILIENCE OF ART IN CITIES; PROTECTING CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES AT RISK: Italian Embassy, 3000 Whitehaven Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008, December 8, 10:00am, http://www.iicwashington.esteri.it/iic_washington/en/gli_eventi/calendario/2016/12/resilience-of-art-cities-protecting.html

Italian Cultural Institute, IO, ARLECCHINO: National Gallery of Art - East Building Auditorium, 6th & Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC 20565, December 10 at 3:30pm, http://www.iicwashington.esteri.it/iic_washington/en/gli_eventi/calendario/2016/12/io-arlecchino.html

Italian Cultural Institute, BELLA E PERDUTA: National Gallery of Art - East Building Auditorium, 6th & Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC 20565, December 11 at 4:30pm, http://www.iicwashington.esteri.it/iic_washington/en/gli_eventi/calendario/2016/12/bella-e-perduta-lost-and-beautiful.html?utm_source=MadMimi&utm_medium=email&utm_content=%5Bcinema%5D+Bella+e+perduta+%28Lost+and+Beautiful%29+-+at+National+Gallery+of+Art+-+December+11%2C+2016&utm_campaign=20161130_m135851684_%5Bcinema%5D+Bella+e+perduta+%28Lost+and+Beautiful%29+-+at+National+Gallery+of+Art+-+December+11%2C+2016&utm_term=MORE+INFO

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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is now on the **AMICO** website. Get news from Italy and information on Italian and Italian-American events as well as music & commentary in streaming audio. Log on any time at Pino Cicala's web site
www.italianamericancommunications.org

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membership application

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meeting location

friendship heights village center

4433 South Park Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815

