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)


Please RSVP at RSVP@italianculturalsociety.org

Elena Ferrante’s Neapolitan Novels by Prof. Laura Benedetti, Georgetown University and Dr. Anna Lawton

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

The New Year got under way with several new courses and a lively social meeting on January 15th which featured a panel discussion attended by about 80 people on the Neapolitan Quartet, a series of novels by Elena Ferrante that has become a literary phenomenon. An article about this event appears later in this issue. On February 8th at John Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) there will be a presentation on the Slow Food movement which we encourage you to attend, especially if you missed our earlier event on that subject in November. Please see “Upcoming Events” on our website for more information. Normally during February we put on a Festa di Carnevale for our members and guests, but this year we are collaborating with several other organizations to host Carnevale at Casa Italiana in DC on Saturday, February 25, 6-9 pm in order to raise money for worthy causes associated with catastrophic earthquakes in central Italy. There is a flyer published in this issue about Carnevale giving details. This is the usual costume party with food, music and prizes for both adults and children, and will also feature a performance by our ILP children. Please make your reservations online, as indicated on the flyer. In addition (see the other flyer), we are participating in a second Carnevale party for children the next day, Sunday February 26 from 10 am to 2 pm hosted by D.I.V.E. at the Candy Cane City Park-Meadowbrook Park Activity Building, 7901 Meadowbrook Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. Plans are underway for a March social meeting with a presentation on science issues. We look forward to seeing you at these events.

Ronald Cappelletti
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WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS
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On January 15, 2017, the ICS Social Meeting was devoted to a discussion of the works by Elena Ferrante, the mysterious novelist who has become a world-wide literary phenomenon especially for four related novels, now referred to as the “Neapolitan Quartet”. Mysterious because, even though there have been recent speculations about her identity, it still remains unknown, and she wants to keep it that way. On a pleasant afternoon in a carefully prepared setting, the discussion was in the form of a sort of interview of Professor Laura Benedetti of Georgetown University who has written academic articles about these novels by Dr. Anna Lawton, founder of New Academia Publishing, who posed to Benedetti a series of questions about the characters and themes in the novels themselves, and about their broader significance to Italian literature and to feminist literature. The first novel in the series “L’amica geniale”, rendered in English as “My brilliant friend”, opens with a phone call to Lenu in Florence from Rino, Lina’s whining son in Naples, that his mother has utterly disappeared without a trace, no clothes left, no personal articles, no books, even her photo cut out from all pictures. We are then brought to the beginning of the relationship between the two women starting with them as 5 or 6 year old girls, the curious, reticent but disciplined Elena Greco (Lenu) and the fierce, original and unpredictable Raffaella Cerullo (Lila or Lina) playing separately with their dolls and eyeing each other. They move on to having their dolls do and say things that stand in for conversations between them, and then finally speaking with each other. We are introduced to their poor, dangerous and vibrant neighborhood in 1950's Naples where the next several years of the first novel plays out...in fact, we keep returning or leaving this place in the next three novels of the quartet as we follow Lenu in her career as a budding intellectual and writer, but Lina remains there all during the time before she completely disappears. We learn how and when they love and detest each other, how they support and compete with each other both intellectually and in life including over a man, Nino, whom they both love, whom we meet as a boy in the first novel. And we explore the reaches of strange psychological phenomenon experienced by Lina, the sense of dissolution into a kind of “liquid”, the disappearance of “boundaries”, against which she has to struggle to maintain her identity. And we learn about the violence of the neighborhood men, their abuse of their women, and the blind, terrorizing rage of the women in response, including madness, all set against the profound changes Italy is undergoing economically and culturally during the period from the 1950’s through the 1990’s. In the Italian feminist context, Benedetti and her interlocutor point out, these novels represent something new: the women are confined, loved and sometimes brutalized by their men, but they are not defined by them. They emerge as powerful protagonists in their own right. The presentation ended with a lively discussion with the audience, many of whom had read one or more of the novels, and just as many left the meeting wanting to read more.
CARNEVALE  
2/25/17

This year, instead of holding our own ICS Carnevale celebration, we are joining with all, or nearly all, of the Washington metropolitan area Italian and Italian American organizations in a joint fund-raising event at Casa Italiana involving a dinner catered by Osteria da Nino, music by The I-Talians, a raffle with valuable prizes, a special children’s program with a variety of activities and entertainment, supervised by volunteers, and a rap song written and performed by the Italian Language Program’s little students.

Children enrolled in the ICS Italian Language Program will have free admission. Please write to us to reserve your child’s ticket at language@italianculturalsociety.org and we will reserve and pay for them to Casa Italiana.

Costumes and/or masks are encouraged but not mandatory. Adults should obtain tickets by following the instructions on the flyer on page 4 of Poche Parole, or our website http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/festa-di-carnevale-2017/ or through the Holy Rosary Church web site.

This promises to be an enjoyable event for adults and children alike, where you can also meet members of the other organizations listed on the flyer. Make sure to get your tickets early because attendance is limited by the capacity of Casa Italiana.

Quest’anno, invece della nostra tradizionale festa di Carnevale al Friendship Heights Village Center, ci uniamo a tutte, o quasi tutte le associazioni italiane e italo americane dell’area metropolitana di Washington in un evento fundraising a Casa italiana. La serata include la cena – fornita dall’Osteria Nino, musica dal vivo degli i-Talians, una ricca lotteria, un programma speciale per i bambini, supervisionati e intrattenuti da volontari e professionisti. I bambini dell’ICS Italian Language Program cantaranno inoltre una canzone di Carnevale Rap, scritta dal gruppo del corso avanzato.

I bambini iscritti all’Italian Language Program sono ospiti dell’Italian Cultural Society, quindi per prenotare il loro biglietto, scriveteci a language@italianculturalsociety.org. Pagheremo noi Casa italiana.


Sarà un evento divertente per adulti e bambini, un’occasione per incontrare membri delle altre associazioni, il cui logo è presente sul flyer. Assicuratevi un biglietto al più presto, in quanto la partecipazione è limitata alla capienza delle sale.
Kids enrolled in the Italian Language Program will be our guests, attending free of charge. The Italian Cultural Society will cover the cost of their tickets, since the Festa di Carnevale is part of our curriculum aimed to teach Italian language, culture and traditions. This year our little students will perform a “Carnevale rap song” written by the advanced level students and Maestra Maura, with the live musical accompaniment kindly provided by The i-Talians.

**CARNEVALE FUNDRAISER**

*From Many Regions Comes One Italy*

*Dinner & Dessert*

*Dancing to the Music of the i-Talians*

*Children’s Entertainment: Magician, Face Painting, Balloon Sculpture*

*Costume Contests with Prizes for Adults & Children*

February 25, 2017
6pm-9pm
*Casa Italiana Sociocultural Center*
395 3rd St. NW, Washington DC

*Cost: $30 adults/$15 children (under 12)/Free (under 3)*

*Includes: Dinner & dessert - Drinks extra*

Tickets may be purchased at www.holyrosarychurchdc.org or after Sunday Mass
For more information: www.holyrosarychurchdc.org or call 301-309-1644

*All Proceeds Will Benefit Children From The Marche Earthquake Region*
CARNEVALE
2/26/17

L'ASSOCIAZIONE LE D.I.V.E.

e' lieta di invitare
tutti i DIVINI e le loro famiglie
unitamente a tutti i soci di MAPACI-ITALIANS IN DC
& ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY alla

FESTA DI CARNEVALE

Domenica 26 FEBBRAIO 2017
dalle ore 10.00 alle 11.00

LANYON CAGE City - Recreation Center - MEADOWBROOK PARK
7801 Meadowbrook Lane Chery House ARI 20113

Tutti i bambini sono pregati di indossare
un costume della tradizione del Carnevale Italiano.

CORTANDO A STELLE FILANTE
MASCHERINE PER IL VISO
CUGNULI & FANCHEZZATI
Ogni famiglia partecipante
e' invitata a PORTARE UN DOLCE da condividere (possibilmente tipico carnevalese)

Posti limitati, per partecipare RSVP a divini@federe.org entro e non oltre il 20 Febbraio

in collaborazione con

The Italian Cultural Society
of Washington D.C.

ITALIANS in DC MAPACI
Forty-one courses began this January, and thirteen more should start on February 21st, for Session 2 of Winter Term. A few classes are waiting for more students in order to start: “Discover Tuscany: in the hearth and soul of Italy”, “Discover Liguria, Piemonte and Veneto- Slow Food and wine”, “Live from Italy”, “Creative writing” and “Cooking class”.

Riccardo Cannavò will give you a taste of Sicily’s history, archeology, cuisine and traditions inherited from the numerous civilizations who have lived on the island for the last four thousand years, with his course “Discover Sicily: history, culture, food and wine on the island of sun”, starting on March 4th.

Our website has been updated with the additional trip to Tuscany. Take advantage of our recommendations for travels and study in Italy!

Three “lunch time mini-courses” of conversation started, as well as the new course “Arte 1”, part of the series “L’Italia è cultura (B1-C2)”. “Storia”, “Letteratura”, “Geografia” and “Storia della musica, cinema e teatro” will follow.

Summer Camp registration is open! We are offering a big discount for enrollment before April 1st.

Children are getting ready for Carnevale now. This year they will learn about the traditional Stock characters by singing a Carnevale rap song, written by the Advanced level class and Maestra Maura.

See you all at the Festa di Carnevale!

Un caro saluto,
Francesca Casazza
ICS SUMMER CAMP

Enroll by April 1st to benefit from the early bird discount!

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.

SUMMER CAMP WEEKS
- June 19th - 23rd
- June 26th- June 30th - Teens Camp
- July 3rd - 7th (4 days)
- July 10th - 14th
- August 21st - 25th
- Aug. 28th - Sept. 1st

COST PER WEEK
9:00AM-3:30PM $350/child - Siblings $320:
$320/ICS Family members - Siblings $320
4 day camp: $300 - 270/ICS F. members & siblings
* Register before April 1st and pay:
$310/child; Siblings $300
$290/ICS Family members - Siblings $290
4 day camp: $280 - 260/ICS F. members & siblings
9:00AM-12:30PM $250/child - Siblings $220:
$220/ICS Family members - Siblings $220
4 day camp: $200 - 170/ICS F. members & siblings
* Register before April 1st and pay:
$210/child; Siblings $200
$200/ICS Family members - Siblings $200
4 day camp: $180 - 170/ICS F. members & siblings

DAILY SCHEDULE
9:00am-9:15am Dray 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 early drop off and late pick-up. Kids are to bring their own lunch and snack. Each Monday, authentic warm Italian pizza will be available for $7. On Fridays, we will make gelato!
THE SLOW FOOD GLOBAL EXPERIENCE

at SAIS Johns Hopkins University on February 8th, 12:00 - 2:00 PM
2/8/17

The Slow Food global experience:
High-quality products for cultural preservation and local development

February 8th 2017, 12:00 - 2:00 PM

Join the conversation! The Executive Director of Slow Food USA, Richard McCarthy together with Slow Food representatives and World Bank experts will talk about the future of food sustainability, biodiversity and local development. Through the comparison of the Italian, American, Swiss and Tunisian experience, they will discuss how cooperation could be essential in terms of agricultural development and community preservation. You will also have the opportunity to learn more about Ark of Taste, Terra Madre and Presidia. It is sure to be an inspiring event!

LOCATION: SAIS Johns Hopkins University - The Berstein Offit Building (BOB), Room 500
RSVP: info@usitalyforum.com
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


To advertise on Poche Parole, please contact language@italianculturalsociety.org, or call 301-215-7885

If you would like to advertise in Poche Parole, below are the advertising rates:

**Poche Parole ad -**

Rates per month, per 3 months.

- business card - 1/8 Page: $60
- ¼ page: $100
- ½ page: $150
- Full page: $200

For the year (9 issues): discount of 20%
Poche Parole
FEBRUARY 2017
Vol. XXXIII, No. 15

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
www.ItalianCulturalSociety.org

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The expiration date of your membership is shown on the address label. Please renew using the form at the bottom of this page.

membership application

Mail application to:
ICS Membership
4827 Rugby Ave., Suite 301
Bethesda, MD 20814

Please make check payable to:
The Italian Cultural Society

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meeting location

friendship heights village center
4433 South Park Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815