PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

I am very proud to share that the inauguration of the new venue for our Society and its Language Program was a great success. Thanks to the efforts of our Executive Director Francesca Casazza and her crew, everything was ready for the opening of our new headquarters. This was not an easy feat as Francesca had to make sure that the new kitchen cabinets and the patriotic (bianco-rosso e verde) refrigerator were indeed delivered and installed by the 19th, when the two days of “open house” were scheduled to begin. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was helped by Ministro Catherine Flumiani and Director of the School office Prof. Maria Fusco. The Director of the Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Emanuele Amendola, was also present to enhance the meaning of the event and the importance of our collaborations. Georgetown University’s Chair of the Department of Italian Professor Anna De Fina was also present, as representative of an Institution which has collaborated with the ICS’s Language Program over many years and continues in this path. After the ribbon cutting there were several speeches, mainly reminiscing about our history and the primary persons that made that history possible, i.e. Maria Wilmeth, Cesarina Horing, Pino Cicala, Flavia Colombo, Roberto Severino former Ministro Cristiano Maggipinto, and others. An inaugural toast and the consumption of delicious hors-d’oeuvres prepared by Pappa Fresca and kindly served by our volunteers followed, to the delight of all 110 guests on each of the two evenings.

The next Social will take place on Sunday, December 17 (see announcement) at the Chevy Chase Village Hall on Connecticut Avenue. It will celebrate the Christmas Season with other organizations, in particular with Le DIVE. Babbo Natale, the Presepe, potluck foods from all regions of Italy, gifts for the children (labeled and to be given to the Elves at the entrance) and happiness will be present for all to enjoy. Buon Natale and see you on December 17!

Luigi De Luca
President ICS

The inaugural cut of the ribbon with Minister Catherine Flumiani, Dr. Emanuele Amendola (Dir. Istituto Italiano di Cultura), Prof. Maria Fusco (Dir. Education Office), Dr. Francesca Casazza and Prof. Luigi de Luca
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS
SINGLE:
Paola Marugan

COUPLE:
Michele Tucci & Michael Berube

FAMILY:
Federico Falcini & family

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NOVEMBER SOCIAL EVENT: INAUGURATION OF THE NEW HEADQUARTERS

11/19/17

On November 19 and 20 we cut the ribbon (twice) to welcome the public to our new headquarters at 4833 Rugby Ave. and hosted about 110 guests each day in considerably more space than we had before. Everyone admired the colorful and tasteful design as well as the new furniture and kitchen facilities which are the result of careful planning and hard work by Executive Director Francesca Casazza and her team. Special thanks go to Chiara Gastaldi, Alberto Ceccon, Cristiana Fabiani, Geoffrey Krieg, Lucy Fonseca, Maura Guida-Maffia, Ron Cappelletti, Arrigo Mongini, Paolo Vidoli, Chiara Melucci, Sofia Caligiuri, Antonella Salvatore, Francesca Baldanzi, Donatella Pulvirenti, Stefano Morabito, Ambra Peruzza, Sara Bordignon and Sabina Di Maio. We are also thankful to Italian companies that provided some of the furniture (Pedini Kitchen, Calligaris, Smeg and Illy).

The inauguration event was also a team effort by Francesca, Chiara Gastaldi, Luigi De Luca, Alberto Ceccon, Lucy Fonseca, Giovanna Sedda, Antonella Salvatore, Stefania Amodeo, Ambra Peruzza, Francesca Baldanzi, Nicoletta Nencioli, Yenny Herrera, Giulia Alberini, Matteo Marchi, Frederic Duch, Elena Pellegrino and Lucrezia Della Pietra. Special thanks go to Simonetta Baldassari for the catering service and to Campari for donating the Prosecco and the Spritz. ICS President, Dr. Luigi De Luca, welcomed our guests, including representatives of the Embassy of Italy and gave a slide presentation on the history of the ICS. Luigi then introduced Francesca Casazza, who gave a presentation focused on the ICS and the Italian Language Program today. The new facilities will allow the continued expansion of both language and cultural activities of the Society.

Arrigo Mongini
NOVEMBER SOCIAL EVENT: INAUGURATION OF THE NEW HEADQUARTERS

11/19/17
Monday, November 20
DECEMBER SOCIAL EVENT: FESTA DI NATALE

Let’s celebrate Christmas together. Save the date: December 17th!

Program

4:00-5:00PM Kids will be entertained by Le D.I.V.E with Arts & Crafts activities

4:20PM Danila Tomassetti’s piano performance of classical arias and holiday music.

5:00PM 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)

5:45PM 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 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. 12th.
RSVP by completing the online form at http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/natale-2017/
Call 301-215-7885 if you need assistance.
Space is limited and RSVP is required.
FROM THE ILP

Fall term ended and while some students are enjoying their long break, others are attending our usual “December special drop-in classes,” an opportunity to keep practicing the language or try different classes, before the Winter Term, which will start on January 8th.

The Winter schedule is online and registration is open. New beginners’ classes start both in the evening and in the morning. Intermediate and advanced levels can choose from History, History of the Italian language, Cinema, Virtual Tours, Cooking Classes, Italy Today or Live from Italy, to discuss the Italian news of the week and practice journalist style writing. Different levels of “Book Club” reading classes will introduce you to authors like Alessandro Baricco, Francesco Piccolo and Antonio Pennacchi.

A new class this winter will be Italy in the European Union, with Prof. Maria Laura Seguiti, to discuss the major achievements and challenges of the European Union and the economic, political and social implications for Italy. This is a 5-week course, which will also be offered in English, afterwards. In English, we also offer some Courses +Trips, Cooking Classes and Latin Classes.

On our website you will find information about these and more courses, as well as our recommended trips and suggestions for schools to study in Italy.

All children’s courses will continue with enthusiasm, including Preschool Italian Immersion for 2-3 year olds, and 4-6 year olds, thanks to our energetic, sweet and well prepared Carola Mamberto, who entertains, stimulates and teaches our language to our youngest students.

On December 1st, we had this year’s first seasonal workshop from 6:00-9:00pm, where kids had fun making and eating pizza with Simonetta Baldassari. They also talked about Holiday traditions and worked on a calendar project.

See you at the Festa di Natale on December 17th. Buone Feste!

Francesca Casazza
Executive Director
Nick Monaco: July 15, 1935 - Nov. 18, 2017

Some people are takers and some are givers. Nick Monaco was the quintessential giver. His was a life of service to his family, his country, his associations, his friends and even to stray animals that came his way. A Jersey boy, Nick was born in Kearny to a father of Italian descent (son of immigrants from Postiglione, Prov. di Salerno) and a mother of Polish descent, and he never forgot his roots. Later in life he celebrated both of those heritages by becoming a member and producing the newsletter for both the Polish Club of Rockville and the Italian Cultural Society. In several trips he eventually took his whole family to visit Postiglione to meet his relatives and establish lasting relationships. Actually, Nick celebrated lots of heritages, having established friendships in Germany, and Finland as well as Italy. In the US Nick never met an “outsider” he didn’t like, and would bring a smile by greeting people in German, Portuguese, Spanish, and even Farsi.

Of his many achievements, Nick was proudest of graduating from the USMA at West Point in 1957. After an assignment in Germany, Nick was reassigned to the US to work at the Atomic Energy Commission, eventually becoming a civilian employee and staying with the branch that successively became ERDA and the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) from which he retired in 1996. As an alumnus of USMA ’57, Nick worked tirelessly to organize class reunions and class luncheons, write a newsletter, and in so many other ways. Just this past September, Nick was honored by receiving the USMA Class of 1957 Medal of the Year for 2016 at an event he was unable to attend in person, but which delighted him nonetheless.

Nick was a staunch and ever-reliable member of the Italian Cultural Society, serving on its board in many capacities (Editor of Poche Parole, treasurer of the Social account, etc.) until retiring from it just a few years ago and receiving an award for his service. Even so, Nick continued to serve at ICS Social meetings as the Master of the Raffle and for any duties that were needed in the kitchen or elsewhere along with his loving wife Brenda. Decorations for the Festa di Natale? Nick kept them at home, brought them out and set them up. Liquor license for Carnevale? Nick made the arrangements. Trip to Baltimore to see the Leonardo Da Vinci exhibit? Nick arranged for the bus and provided coffee and doughnuts as we waited for it on a cold frosty morning. And all this is not to mention his many years of service to the Festa Italiana street party held near Holy Rosary Church in DC for which he kept the books and managed the volunteers, and spent 10 hour days when “gameday” arrived. You could count on Nick. And we all did. He was a great friend.

We will miss you, Nick. We will all miss you.

Ron Cappelletti, president emeritus, ICS
(Venice article, continued from the November issue)

FANDANGO arruolato un tour privato di Venezia, dopo di ché abbiamo preso un moto taxi per Murano. Siamo rimasti sorpresi dall’alta statura e occhi verdi di Elena, un’eccezione allo stereotipo che gli americani hanno degli italiani. Girando per Venezia però ci siamo accorti che Elena non era poi proprio un’eccezione. Il Veneto, la regione di Venezia, è vicino all’Austria e include le Dolomiti. Nel nord Italia e soprattutto nella zona alpina, si vedono tante persone alte e di carnagione chiara. Elena ci ha portato in parecchi palazzi e chiese, in cui ci ha fatto notare quadri di Bellini e altri artisti di altissimo valore.

A Murano siamo stati accolti da un funzionario di una fabbrica vetraria, che ci ha invitato ad assistere alla fabbricazione di un vaso da $15.000. Nel negozio avevamo preso un elegante lampadario da $12.000, perfetto per la nostra casa al mare, ma poi siamo rinsaviti e ci siamo limitati all’acquisto di fotografie.

Non potevamo non visitare musei d’arte. I due più importanti erano vicino a noi: La Galleria dell’Accademia e il Peggy Guggenheim. La Galleria contiene una vasta collezione di arte medievale e rinascimentale, il Guggenheim arte moderna. Peggy Guggenheim comprò la maggior parte della collezione da artisti scappati dai nazisti in Francia. La terrazza si affaccia sul Canal Grande ed offre un’interessante storia. Il primo piano del palazzo di fronte, dall’altra parte del canale, è identico al Guggenheim, ma è di 4 o 5 piani, mentre il Guggenheim ha solo un piano. Si dice che i primi proprietari volevano far costruire un palazzo identico, ma il loro sorgeva su un suolo che non avrebbe consentito di sostenere un tale peso. Abbandonato il progetto, Peggy Guggenheim subentrò nell’acquisto, ad un ottimo prezzo, per tenere il palazzo solo di un piano e farne il suo museo.

Jackson and Ellen Coppley

We couldn’t leave Venice without taking in some art museums. Two of the most important were near us, the Galleria dell’Accademia and the Peggy Guggenheim Museum. The Galleria contained a vast collection of medieval and renaissance works. The Guggenheim was a modern abstract collection. Peggy Guggenheim bought most of her collection by artists in France who were fleeing the Nazis. The terrace of the Peggy Guggenheim opens onto the Grand Canal and offers an interesting story. The first floor of the palace across the canal is the Guggenheim’s mirror image. After that, it has five or six additional floors, while the Guggenheim remains a one-story building. Rumor has it that the first owners intended to duplicate the other palace, but the soil beneath was too weak to sustain a similar palace. Plans abandoned, Peggy Guggenheim found it to be a great buy and built a less weighty one-level house which is now her museum.
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