SOCIAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS OVERVIEW

Professor Anna Lawton will give a talk, “Magic Moments in Italian Cinema,” on Saturday, May 19, at 3:30pm (with movie at 1:30) at the Italian Cultural Society 4833 Rugby Ave., Suite 201, Bethesda, MD 20814

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

We are already nearly to the end of the social year and I would like to remind you of the important items still on our agenda for this year.

First and most importantly we need people interested in becoming Board Members. Please express your interest by contacting the main office of the Society at (language@italianculturalsociety.org) at your earliest convenience. We will need to choose new Board members as soon as possible so that the membership at large may approve them at the next meeting of the Society on May 19 (Saturday this time) at our headquarters on Rugby Avenue. Prof. Anna Lawton will present “Magic Moments in Italian Cinema”.

Second, we are very proud to announce that our Gala Dinner will take place on Wednesday evening May 23rd at the beautiful venue of the Embassy of Italy. The occasion has been designed to celebrate L’Italia ed il Cinema. As usual, we will celebrate the excellence of Italian culture, which this year addresses the specific aspect of cinematographic excellence. We will also host several students who have been selected to receive awards in Science, Classical Languages, the Arts, including Music, and most importantly the Italian Language. A unique Silent Auction, guests’ presentation and musical performance, and a wonderful dinner will make the evening memorable! The details for RSVPing are included in this issue of Poche Parole. I hope to see as many of you as possible at the Gala!

With all best wishes, Luigi M. De Luca, President ICS
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Our April Social Meeting was a great success!

We are truly thankful for the generosity of our hosts, Nina Gardner and Francesco Olivieri, for their friendly welcome to our members and the delicious Venetian homemade dinner.

Proceeds go towards our scholarship program, in particular to the Cesarina Horing Awards fund, designated to the Italian Departments of 6 universities in the area, to award their best students.

The highlight of the evening was Marie Ohanesian Nardin’s semi-autobiographical novel, based on the story of how an American girl from Los Angeles visits Venice and falls in love with a gondolier and raises a family there. The author presented her book, “Beneath the Lion’s Wings,” in conversation with Nina Luzzatto Gardner, and accompanied by fun videos.

https://www.marieohanesiannardinauthor.com/
This month, Professor Anna Lawton of New Academia Publishing will give a talk,

MAGIC MOMENTS IN ITALIAN CINEMA

On Saturday (NOT Sunday) May 19, at 3:30pm
(with movie at 1:30) at the Italian Cultural Society
4833 Rugby Ave., Suite 201, Bethesda, MD 20814

More information at
www.italianculturalsociety.org/get-involved/social-meetings/
And please reserve your seat sending an email to
RSVP@italianculturalsociety.org

To celebrate the Year of Cinema, Anna Lawton will lead us on a visual excursion through three significant moments of Italian cinema which gained international acclaim: the Silent Movies, Neorealism, Masters of the 1960s-1970s. A slide show will illustrate the presentation with captivating stills from the silent “colossals,” Rossellini’s and DeSica’s post-war dramas, the “commedia all’italiana,” “spaghetti westerns,” and the auteur films by Fellini, Visconti, Pasolini, Bertolucci, Bellocchio, and...many others.

Dr. Anna Lawton is a professor of literature and cinema. She taught film studies and visual culture at Georgetown University and served on the Advisory Film Committee of the National Gallery of Art. She published three scholarly books and numerous scholarly essays and articles, as well as two novels. She has received several awards, including the CHOICE Award as Outstanding Academic Title for her book, Imaging Russia 2000: Film and Facts. She is also the founder of the publishing house New Academia Publishing, which she has run successfully for 15 years.
The Italian Cultural Society of Washington, DC cordially invites you to the 2018 Gala Awards Dinner "L’ITALIA E IL CINEMA"

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 2018, 6:30 PM

HONORARY GUESTS:

FRANCESCA MARCIANO

Internationally acclaimed screenwriter and novelist. She has written movies directed by Bertolucci, Salvatore, Verdone and Comencini, among many others, including "Don’t Tell," which received an Oscar nomination for Best Foreign Language Film, and two upcoming TV series. She has also been a director, and more recently, the author of four books published by Pantheon, Random House.

MAX BARTOLI

Producer, filmmaker and award-winning director of "The Secret of Joy," "Atlantis Down" and "Ignotos." Media producer for the World Bank, he has produced and directed documentaries, TV shows and events, including the 2015 FIAT LUX in Rome.

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Cocktail Attire

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Please visit italianculturalsociety.org to rsvp!
FROM THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM

MAY 2018

Last year, during winter and spring, we were monitoring the construction of our new headquarters and worked with enthusiasm, to design, decorate and organize our new school and event venue for 4833 Rugby Ave., Suite 201. We are happy with the results because the ICS feels more and more like our Italian modern home, with a kitchen, a library, chairs, a dining table, and colorful classrooms.

May will be filled with events to promote our language and culture: Saturday May 12th, we will be at the Embassy for the annual European Embassy Open House. Sunday May 20th, we will be at the OAS for a Food Festival organized by the Organization of Women of Americas. The ILP will entertain kids with creative/cultural activities and will share information about our program. May 19, the Social Meeting will prepare us for our Gala, on May 23rd, which this year celebrates Italian excellence in cinema.

We are working now on the Summer Term, starting June 25th: we will offer classes for beginner, intermediate and advanced students. Conversation, history and good cinema will help you practice your comprehension and speaking skills. Our Summer Schedule will be online at the middle of May.

For the kids, we are planning wonderful activities for our fifth Summer Camp, for the weeks of June 18th, June 25th, July 2nd (4 days), July 9th, August 20th, August 27th. The first two weeks will be dedicated to 9-15 years old, to learn Italian through cooking, music, cinema, art and science. Latin 1 Summer immersion will also be offered in July upon request.

Francesca Casazza
SAN REMO, PROV. DI IMPERIA, ITALIA, 7-13 MAGGIO 2017

San Remo along the Italian Riviera, not far from Monaco and Cannes (in France), has been a favorite for tourists and vacationers for centuries because of its mild climate and pleasant location by the sea. So many Russian nobles spent the winter there before the revolution that the local Russian colony eventually built a beautiful little Russian church which we visited on this trip. Besides the icons to admire in the church proper, one can visit the crypt where the graves of king Nikola and queen Milena of Montenegro are to be found. I say we, that is, myself and my 1st cousin Nancy Rossi who lives in London. We departed on a gray Sunday morning from Heathrow taking a flight to Nice. We landed at the Côte d’Azur airport to find a bright, sunny day of pristine loveliness and found our way to the Europcar office where we picked up our hybrid Toyota Yaris, a quiet, beautiful little solution to driving on the winding hill and coastal roads of Liguria, and very parsimonious in its fuel-sipping.

Along the excellent highways, both in France and Italy, we were treated to views of small towns, the Mediterranean, and even the occasional Alp peaking over the distant coastal mountains before finding our way into San Remo and facing the little challenge of getting unloaded at the apartment that awaited us. Claudia DeFerre had donated the apartment as a silent auction item at the 2016 Italian Cultural Society Gala held at the Italian Embassy, and I won the bid for a week’s stay, so here we were to enjoy it. (If interested in renting Claudia’s apartment, please contact her at cmdeferre@gmail.com, or 571-232-3307).

It was in an older building just off the Piazza Cristoforo Colombo, a comfortable two room affair an elevator ride to the third floor with a kitchen and balcony, great for our purposes, namely walking around San Remo to see the sights, and taking day trips to nearby villages of interest... and just relaxing. Parking was free down by the harbor. Nancy had brought along a book of British Acrostics by F. A. McKen, and we both enjoyed the challenge of these puzzles after a day of walking around or an evening gelato at “Slurp” or “Lollipop”. We took breakfast at home and also cooked a couple of meals there, but enjoyed sampling the local cuisine at nearby restaurants such as Pizzeria da Giovanni and Birreria Italia. One local dish we quickly came to like was Trofie alla Genovese, with a pesto sauce, diced boiled potatoes and green beans. Trofie are little twists of pasta, a bit like gemelle, but only about a third the size. We tried, unsuccessfully, to go to a restaurant in the old medieval center of San Remo, La Pigna, but never were able to find it in the warren of narrow passageways in that district. La Pigna seems to now be where many local immigrants (North Africans, Bangladeshis) find lodging.

San Remo is home to the San Remo festival, held yearly at the Ariston theater, basically a singing contest that has given rise to several stars from the 1950’s onward, including Domenico Modugno (Volare) and Andrea Bocelli (Con te partirò). San Remo also hosts a European Texas Hold’em poker tournament and the longest professional one day bicycle race in modern cycling between Milano and San Remo, a distance of 298 km (called The Spring Classic or La Classissima). World Class events, not bad for a little city of 57,000. But then, that’s what Italy is all about, a world-class place steeped in history and culture packed into some of the most spectacular geography on the planet.

... to be continued in the next issue.

Ronald Cappelletti
San Remo, una cittadina sulla Riviera italiana, non lontana da Monaco e Cannes (in Francia), è stata una meta favorita dai turisti e vacanzieri per secoli per via del clima mite e della favorevole posizione geografica sul mare. Erano così tanti i nobili russi che trascorrevano l’inverno lì prima della rivoluzione che la colonia russa del posto alla fine decise di costruire una bellissima chiesa russa che abbiamo visitato durante questo viaggio. Oltre alle icone da ammirare nella chiesa stessa, è possibile visitare anche la cripta dove sono sepolti il re Nikola e la regina Milena di Montenegro. È per noi intendo io e mia cugina di primo grado Nancy Rossi che vive a Londra. Insieme siamo partiti da Heathrow una mattina grigia, con direzione Nizza. Siamo atterrati in Costa Azzurra dove c’era il sole e la giornata era molto bella e ci siamo accominatini verso l’ufficio Europcar per ritirare la nostra macchina a noleggio, una Toyota Yaris ibrida, una bella e silenziosa soluzione per guidare su delle colline tortuose e sulla costa ligure, e una soluzione economica per quanto riguarda il consumo di carburante.

Lungo le ottime autostrade, sia francesi che italiane, abbiamo goduto della vista di piccole città, il Mediterraneo e anche a distanza della vista occasionale di qualche vetta alpina prima di arrivare a San Remo e qui occuparci delle piccole difficoltà relative allo scaricare delle nostre cose dalla macchina fino all’appartamento dove avremmo alloggiato.

Claudia De Ferre aveva donato l’appartamento come oggetto di un’asta silenziosa alla serata di Gala organizzata dall’Italian Cultural Society nel 2016 nell’Ambasciata Italiana e io avevo vinto una settimana di alloggio, ed ora eravamo qui a goderci il premio. (Se vi interessa l’appartamento, potete contattare Claudia cmdeferre@gmail.com, o 571-232-3307).

L’appartamento è situato in un edificio antico vicino Piazza Cristoforo Colombo, un bilocale al terzo piano con cucina e balcone, perfetto per i nostri scopi, ovvero camminare in giro per San Remo per vedere i posti di maggiore interesse e esplorare i villaggi vicini…e rilassarsi. Il parcheggio era gratis, vicino al porto. Nancy aveva portato con sé un libro di acrostici inglesi di F.A. McKen e entrambi ci divertivamo a risolvere i puzzle dopo una giornata passata a camminare o dopo una serata con tanto di gelato a “Slurp” o “Lollipops”. Facevamo colazione a casa e un paio di volte abbiamo anche cucinato li, ma per il resto ci siamo divertiti a provare la cucina locale nei ristoranti della zona, come Pizzeria Da Giovanni e Birreria Italia. Un piatto locale che ci è piaciuto da subito sono le “trofe alla genovese” con pesto, patate lesse a cubetti e fagiolini. Le “trofe” sono un tipo di pasta arrotolata su se stessa, un po’ come la pasta “gemelli”, ma un terzo di grandezza rispetto a quest’ultima. Abbiamo provato, ma senza successo, a mangiare in un ristorante nella parte medievale di San Remo, La Pigna, tuttavia non siamo riusciti a districarci tra i vialetti stretti caratteristici di quella parte della città. Pare che La Pigna sia il posto dove si ritrovino molti degli immigranti del posto (del Nord Africa, del Bangladesh).

Ogni anno al Teatro Ariston di San Remo viene celebrato il Festival di San Remo, sostanzialmente una gara musicale che ha portato al successo molte star dagli anni ’50 ad oggi, come Domenico Modugno (Volare) e Andrea Bocelli (Con te partirò). San Remo ospita anche un torneo europeo di poker Texas Hold’em e la corsa in bicicletta di un giorno più lunga con una distanza di 298 km tra Milano e San Remo (chiamata The Spring Classic o La Classicissima). Eventi di risonanza mondiale, dunque, non male per una piccola città di 57,000 abitanti. Ma in fondo, questa è l’essenza dell’Italia, un posto di fama mondiale, impregnato di storia e cultura, e il tutto in uno degli scenari geografici più spettacolari al mondo.

...Continua nel prossimo numero.

Translation by: Valentina Asciutti
RACCOMANDAZIONI LETTERARIE DAI NOSTRI STUDENTI

Libro da scegliere “A book to Choose” by Anne Dyer

Scegliere un libro della nostra lista per raccomandarlo ad altri studenti è più difficile che scegliere un libro da portare con sé su una isola deserta: deve essere divertente, ben scritto, senza dialetto e invitante alla discussione.

Allora, la maggior parte dei gialli è eliminata, così come alcuni romanzi moderni dove lo scrittore parla troppo di sé stesso; «Caos calmo» di Sandro Veronesi-Premio Strega nel 2006 e «In altre parole» di Jumpa Lahiri ne sono esempi perfetti.

Naturalmente, mi piacciono i classici come Moravia o Tomasi di Lampedusa, tanto ben scritti, ma i loro romanzi hanno spesso lunge descrizioni e non sono i migliori per iniziare una discussione.

I romanzi che parlano di problemi psicologici come “Lacci” (di Domenico Starnone) o “Agostino” (di Alberto Moravia) sono buoni candidati e provano discussioni, ma alla fine, preferisco libri moderni che siano anche informativi sull’Italia.


So che questo libro non risponde a molte caratteristiche che ho citato all’inizio, ma “so what?”

To choose a book for other students to read is more difficult than choosing a book to take away on a deserted island: it must be entertaining, well written, without any dialect and leading to discussions.

One has then to eliminate most thrillers, as well as a few modern novels where the writer is busy talking about himself; Perfect examples would be “Quiet chaos” by Sandro Veronesi- laureate of the 2006 Strega Prize and “In other words” by Jumpa Lahiri.

Of course, I like classical writers like Moravia or Tomasi di Lampedusa, so well written but their novels have often long descriptions which do not help the start of a discussion.

Novels whose main theme treats psychological problems like “Ties” from Domenico Starnone or “Agostino” from Moravia are good candidates and lead to discussions, but in the end, I prefer books allowing readers to deepen their knowledge of Italy.

We have read quite a few of these- and very interesting ones- “Christ stopped in Eboli by Carlo Levi, “L’affaire Moro ” by Leonardo Scascia, “A year on the plateau” by Emilio Lussu, but I am selecting “the Mussolini Canal” by Antonio Pennacchi (2010 Strega Prize laureate); entertaining, with some dialect as added difficulty, it tells the story of the Fascist era through the eyes of one family and helps us understand how the Italy of the 1930s looked like.

I know that this book does not have all the characteristics I mentioned in the first paragraph, but so what?
LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

**European Embassy Open House** – Saturday, May 12th, 10:00am-4:00pm – Come visit us at the Italian Embassy! (http://events.euintheus.org/landing_page/euopenhouse/)

**XX Food Festival hosted by Organization of Women of the Americas** - Sunday May 20th, 11:00am-5:00pm
C street between 18th and 17th streets NW, Washington DC 20006

**Please visit our webpage:** www.italianculturalsociety.org/events

**And visit The Italian Cultural Institute’s calendar:** www.iicwashington.esteri.it/iic_washington/it

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