



**The Italian
Cultural Society**
of Washington D.C.

Poche Parole

October 2018

Vol. XXXVI

No. 2

PRESERVING AND PROMOTING ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

SOCIAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS OVERVIEW

On the occasion of the Week of the Italian Language in the World (15 to 21 October 2018), Professor Sandro Corso will give a talk: "SPOKEN ITALIAN TODAY: REGIONAL LANGUAGE VARIATION IN CONTEMPORARY ITALY" on Sunday, October 14, at 2:30 pm at the Chevy Chase Village Hall, 5906 Connecticut Ave NW, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. In the adjacent room, same time: Children's Workshop: "THE FUN OF LEARNING ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND REGIONAL TRADITIONS." For children 5-11.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you all enjoyed the September presentation by Prof. Lucia Ceci on the subject of "Fascist Racism in the Colonies: Building a Legal Discrimination."

The next social will take place on Sunday of October 14th at 2:30 PM. Prof. Sandro Corso, an important exponent of the Italian language week promoted by the Italian Government and the Embassy of Italy, will talk on "Spoken Italian today: Regional language variation in contemporary Italy" – Please note, this talk will take place at 2:30 PM at the Chevy Chase Village Hall. See details in the following pages.

As far as new initiatives, Executive Director Francesca Casazza is working with the Board to reorganize the dates for the annual membership, which will be renewed for the social/academic year starting in September to the end of August of the

following year. The details and the benefits of the ICS membership are spelled out on our ICS website.

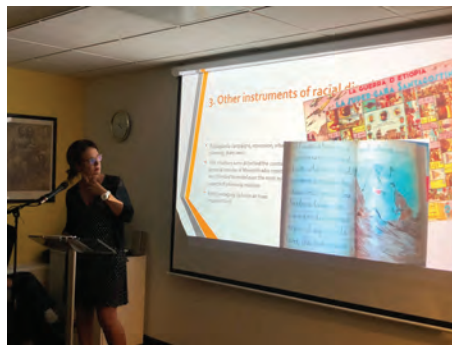
I would like to remind you that one of the aims of the Board has been to recruit new members. Presently we have had expression of interest from five members. Anyone who is interested should contact me, Francesca, or any other member of the Board.

I look forward to seeing you at the next social event.

Luigi M. De Luca,
President ICS



Members of the ICS Board of Directors with Prof. Lucia



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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Single: Peter Lapera, Nina Serafino, Timothy Hamilton, Antonia Fondaras, Kathryn Stevens, Lewis Stewart, Esther Camarotte, Lisa Tuvalo, Jason Rubinstein, Joseph Woodward, Daniel Ross, Paola Desio

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OCTOBER SOCIAL EVENT WITH PROF. LUCIA CECI

On Sunday, September 23, 2018, we heard Prof. Lucia Ceci talk on the subject of “Fascist Racism in the Colonies: Building a Legal Discrimination”.

Prof. Ceci was a guest of SMATCH (Scientific Methodologies Applied to Cultural Heritage) and came also to lecture at other academic organizations in the Washington metropolitan area.

Professor Lucia Ceci teaches in the Department of Contemporary History of the University of Rome, at Tor Vergata. Her presentation was based on her books on the relationship between the Catholic Church and politics.

For the first of her books “Il Papa non deve parlare: Chiesa , Fascismo e Guerra d’Etiopia”, published by Laterza, in 2010, she won the Desiserio Pirovano Book prize. More recently she published “L’interesse superiore, Il Vaticano e l’Italia di Mussolini”, also by Laterza. This book earned her the Friuli Book Prize for Contemporary History. It has been translated into English and published by Brill in 2016. About 40 members were present, including the SMATCH Board of Directors, and many asked questions making for an interesting afternoon.

Luigi M. De Luca, President ICS





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**The Italian
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of Washington D.C.**



SETTIMANA
DELLA LINGUA
ITALIANA
NEL MONDO



October Social Meeting

This event is organized with the patronage of the Italian Cultural Institute in Washington DC

SUNDAY OCTOBER 14, 2018 at 2:30 pm

Chevy Chase Village Hall

5906 Connecticut Ave NW, Chevy Chase, MD 20815

“SPOKEN ITALIAN TODAY: REGIONAL LANGUAGE VARIATION IN CONTEMPORARY ITALY”

The 18th edition of **the Week of the Italian Language in the World** (15 to 21 October 2018) is dedicated to the theme “Italian and the web, social networks for the Italian Language”.

On this occasion, Prof. Corso will present the contemporary linguistic situation in Italy, in a sociolinguistic perspective, after an introduction to the history of Italian, the so-called *Questione della lingua*.

Over the last sixty years the percentage of people who speak Italian in virtually all situations and social contexts has grown from about 50% to more than 90%, but with various degrees of deviation from the standard form depending on regional origin, social status and education of individual speakers. The problem of which Italian variation to teach will also be addressed, with reference to contemporary views of the *Questione della lingua*: Italian in the media and on the Internet or Social media.



Prof. Sandro Corso is currently the Education Office Director at the Italian Consulate General in Chicago, with the mission of monitoring, promoting and supporting the Italian language programs in the Italian Consular jurisdiction of Chicago. He previously worked in the school management for Italian Education Ministry, and was Professor of Italian literature and Sociolinguistics at the University of Edinburgh and UCL-Un. College London. He graduated in Modern Languages and Italian Literature at the University of Cagliari. He holds an M.A. in Linguistics and Teaching theory from University of Venice Ca' Foscari and a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from University of Edinburgh, UK.



KIDS WORKSHOP with Fiorenza: “THE FUN OF LEARNING ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND REGIONAL TRADITIONS.” Children 5-11 will be entertained while learning, in the adjacent room, at the same time.

RSVP: rsvp@italianculturalsociety.org



FROM THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM

OCTOBER 2018

For this Fall Term, Session 1, we opened 52 courses (compared to the 41 last year and 37 two years ago). Twelve of those are children's courses. In Virginia we just started the first lessons, with two courses for adults and two for children. In Frederick, we are still waiting for more students to join an adult beginners class, and a childrens class.

Prof. Luigi De Luca is now teaching [Latin](#) for his advanced level and will start again soon with a group of Italian middle schoolers and high schoolers. We feel very lucky to have a truly inspiring Professor for teaching the classics!

On October 29th, Session 2 will start for morning classes (twice per week, 5 weeks). We will be offering about 13 courses, the continuation of what is being taught now, as usual, from Beginners to Advanced level classes, including lunch time conversation and culture classes (now Arte).

[Yoga in Italian](#) took place twice so far, and I am enjoying it very much myself! One of our Friday yoga classmates also attends the new course on Dante e la Divina Commedia, taught right after, by the same eclectic instructor Annelise Brody.

You can find the Fall schedule [online](#). It is still possible to join, especially for Cooking classes, offered in three-class series, each month.

The first [Children's Themed Workshop](#) of the season is planned for October 14th during the October Social Meeting (see previous page), that hosts an interesting presentation by Prof. Sandro Corso: "SPOKEN ITALIAN TODAY: REGIONAL LANGUAGE VARIATION IN CONTEMPORARY ITALY". Prof. Corso will talk about the linguistic situation in Italy, in a sociolinguistic perspective, after an introduction to the history of Italian, the so-called Questione della lingua. This event is organized with the patronage of the Italian Cultural Institute in Washington DC, on the occasion of the XVIII edition of the Week of the Italian Language in the World (15 to 21 October 2018), dedicated to the theme "Italian and the web, social networks for the Italian Language". Don't miss it!

Un caro saluto,

Francesca Casazza



Italian for kids in Fairfax



Italian students in Latin class



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YOGA IN ITALIAN

with Annelise Brody



Hatha Yoga and Eldoa

This course is open to all levels and combines *Eldoa* (a series of postural exercises designed to improve back pain and posture) with the benefits of *Hatha* yoga. Each class will focus on balance, strength and flexibility, which together with breathing will leave us focused, energized and ready to move through the weekend!

(Instructor is a 200 YTT certified and Eldoa 1&2 certified)

Date: Sep 21-Nov 30, 2018

Time : 9:00 AM-10:00 AM on Fridays

Level : All levels

Location: The ICS Headquarters
4833 Rugby Ave., Suite 201,
Bethesda, MD 20814

REGISTER TODAY! Visit: www.theitalianculturalsociety.org/yogainitalian

FALL: TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Your membership is valid until August of the following year.

Membership benefits are:

- 1 – Access to a rich Italian library, including DVDs
- 2 – Discount on Italian Courses
- 3 – Discounts to attend ICS Special Events and Social Meetings, concerts, movies, and other events organized by other organizations
- 4 – A monthly newsletter
- 5 – Be part of our enriching mission of promoting the Italian language and culture in our area!

<http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/get-involved/join-or-renew-your-ics-membership/>



Italian Language Program

CLASSES IN VIRGINIA

The Italian Cultural Society of Washington D.C.

The Italian Cultural Society is a non-profit organization whose mission is to enhance the appreciation and knowledge of Italian language and culture, through **monthly events**, **newsletter**, **scholarship awards**, and through its **Italian Language Program (ILP)**.

The ILP was founded in 1974, with contributions from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. ICS is one of the leading language schools in the metropolitan area, focused on educating a growing community of adults, teenagers and children, learning Italian as a second language.

All teachers are **native Italian speakers**, experienced in teaching Italian as a second language.

Culture is an essential part of the courses from the beginner levels, and advanced students can deepen their knowledge of **History, Literature, Art, Food&Wine, Travel** and much more.

We are starting the ILP - Virginia Chapter!

Italian Classes for Adults and Kids

at the **Green Acres Recreation Center**,
4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax, VA 22030

Starting Saturday Sept. 29th, 2018:

KIDS CLASSES:

- **Pre-School Italian Immersion (3-5 yrs old)**
Saturday 9:30-11:00am
 - **Italian for kids - Advanced Beginners (6-8 yrs old)**
Saturday 11:05-12:35pm
 - **Italian for kids - Intermediate (9-13 yrs old)**
Saturday 12:40-2:10pm
- * 13-year-old kids have the option to join the adult courses

ADULTS CLASSES (teenagers are welcome):

- **Beginners 2 (A1)**
Saturday 9:30-11:00am
- **Elem/Interm. level conversation with grammar (A2-B1)**
Saturday 11:00-12:30pm

Registration: <http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/ilp-virginia-frederick-chapter/>

Possibility of **after school program** at your school.

Contact us at language@italianculturalsociety.org



Italian Language Program

CLASSES IN FREDERICK

We are starting the ILP - Frederick Chapter!

Italian Classes for Adults and Kids

at the **C. Burr Artz Library**
[Study Room 3, 3110 East Patrick St., Frederick, MD 21701]

Starting Thursday October 4th and Saturday October 6th, 2018:

- **Beginners 1 (A1)**
Thursday 6:00-8:00pm (for adults and teenagers)
- **Italian for kids - Beginners and Intermediate level 6-10 yrs. old)**
Saturday 10:00-11:30am

Registration: <http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/ilp-virginia-frederick-chapter/>

Possibility of **after school program** at your school.
Contact us at language@italianculturalsociety.org

Become a Member!
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I TRULLI PUGLIESI

Noi italiani siamo abituati ad essere circondati dal bello. Quasi non ci stupiamo più dell'imponenza degli edifici che i nostri antenati ci hanno lasciato. In Italia, di là della piaga di un turismo distratto del tipo mordi e fuggi o dell'oblio stesso dei nostri concittadini, resta comunque l'arduo compito di preservare l'arte del passato per i nostri nipoti, cosa tutt'altro che facile. È di qualche giorno fa [un articolo](#) che evidenzia un aspetto di questo problema di difficile soluzione.

Quando pure si riescono a reperire fondi regionali per il restauro di manufatti entrati a ben diritto nella lista del Patrimonio Mondiale dell'Umanità dell'UNESCO, mancano le maestranze. Uso questo termine perché manovalanza ha acquisito un'accezione negativa. Maestranze: chi con maestria si presta a preservare i trulli, strutture dal sapore antico o a perpetuarne la tradizione, rispettando le tecniche di costruzione che affondano le radici nelle fabbriche circolari e/o coniche che rimandano alla *Θόλος* dell'antica Micene e ai nuraghi della Sardegna, passando dai trulli della valle d'Itria e delle zone limitrofe. Ebbene sì, questi maestri trullari sono richiestissimi perché c'è penuria di mani esperte. Infatti è un certosino lavoro di martello quello che favorisce l'incastro delle pietre senza tagliarle in alcun modo. Si usa pietra locale, raccolta scavando nel terreno calcareo diffuso nella parte centrale della Puglia (vogliamo parlare di sostenibilità ambientale?) e la si posa (in origine senza alcuna malta) scegliendo di volta in volta la forma che meglio si adatti alla struttura. È un lavoro che si apprende facendolo, (ora che anche i teorici della didattica hanno riscoperto l'importanza dell'*experiential learning*) ma non si trovano giovani

che resistano per più di un paio di giorni a maneggiare le pietre e non esiste più una cultura di supporto che gratifichi il grande sacrificio fisico.

Il trullo, nato come casupola utilitaria per deposito degli attrezzi agricoli e per il ricovero temporaneo dei contadini, eredi dei servi della gleba, è in se stesso un perfetto organismo architettonico realizzato risolvendo un importante problema di statica e sfruttando con ingegnosa maestria la natura geologica della zona, formata da colline aride, ricoperte in parte da un manto di roccia calcarea che si sfalda in strati di spessore diverso così da poter fornire lastre a facce parallele e lisce. Benché considerati un tempo costruzioni precarie, negli anni i trulli hanno subito imposizioni fiscali onerose e altri vincoli legali che imponevano questo o quell'altro capriccio del nobile di turno, incluso il divieto di una proliferazione oltremisura, a suono di editti di retaggio feudale. Oggigiorno, però, c'è chi (anche stranieri) con lungimiranza ha colto un'opportunità imprenditoriale. Alcuni trulli ristrutturati ad arte sono stati trasformati in agriturismi, altri sono diventati la casa per le vacanze di diversi italiani (vedi Figura). Ancora per poco? I mastri trullari sono rimasti in pochi e i giovani preferiscono fare altro. Dovremo rassegnarci a vederli crollare? Per fortuna alcuni sono in piedi da quattrocento anni, al contrario di alcune costruzioni spacciate per antisismiche...

Pandora Falasfaglia



APULIAN TRULLI

Italians are born surrounded by beauty. They are so used to the magnificence of their buildings, passed down to them by their ancestors, that they walk down their street oblivious of that much beauty. Italy, besides surviving the plague of a certain low cost offers that bring in the worst type of tourism, or the oblivion of its own citizens, has to face another unsettling predicament. I am talking about the commitment to preserve all the architecture and artifacts, and pass them on to future generations. A few weeks ago, an Italian newspaper published an [article](#) on this particular conundrum.

As a matter of fact, even when regional funds get allocated to preserve items added by UNESCO to its World Heritage List, it is very difficult to find master craftsmen. In Italian I'd use the term *maestranze*, because it holds the inner meaning of master, when craftsmanship performs at its best; that is exactly what is needed to restore certain peculiar circular structures. They replicate ancient circular constructions that date back to the Greek *Θόλος*, as if one straight path would lead from Mycenae to the nuraghe in Sardinia, through Apulia and its trulli. These *mastri trullari* are highly specialized and there are very few left. Theirs is a labor of love, as they use only hand tools to fit together stones unearthed nearby (talk of sustainability!) without cutting or modifying their original shape or using mortar to hold them together. There is a part of Apulia where the soil is made of limestone. Its characteristic is to break into slabs of different thickness and shape. *Mastri trullari* hand pick and select each single stone that fits into their construction. It is a job that can

only be taught 'hands on' (nowadays scholars are 'rediscovering' experiential learning!). The problem is that young adults aren't willing to do such toil and seek less labor-intensive jobs, considering also that it is a job no longer appreciated by society, there is no glamour about it.

Originally, a trullo was built onto the open fields, as a temporary shelter for tools or workers, descendants of medieval serfs; it was a brilliant solution that overcame a huge problem posed by statics while using local stone, whose peculiarity was exploited to its best. Trulli were originally considered temporary constructions. It came the time, however, when local noblemen or even the king imposed nevertheless, property taxes on them. Today, some far-seeing entrepreneurs (mainly foreigners) turned some of them into resorts or B&Bs. How long will it last? Like I said, craftsmen are dwindling and they are not replaced by younger apprentices. Luckily, some trulli have been standing for four hundred years, contrary to certain newer constructions sold as anti-seismic...

Pandora Falasfogia



RACCOMANDAZIONI LETTERARIE DAI NOSTRI STUDENTI

By AIJA BLITTE

Leggere un libro in italiano e' un gran piacere - e la nostra classe ha letto quasi novanta romanzi e gialli in tredici/quattordici anni - pero' scegliere il primo romanzo fa un po' paura. Pensiamo che non comprenderemo tutte le parole e che la trama del libro non si capirà facilmente. Puo' essere cosi' pero' e' normale. Se dovessi scegliere qualche libro per una classe di studenti d'italiano che non ha mai letto un romanzo intero, sceglierei uno di questi tre libri: *L'isola di Arturo* di Elsa Morante; *L'amica geniale* di Elena Ferrante; o *L'affare Moro* di Leonardo Sciascia. Sono libri molto diversi ma il linguaggio non e' difficilissimo.

L'isola di Arturo e' la storia, non lunga, di un bambino, dalla sua nascita fino all'eta' di quattordici anni. Arturo cresce in un' isola non lontano da Napoli dove si trova una prigione e racconta la sua vita fino a 14 anni.

L'amica geniale, un libro ben conosciuto anche in inglese, e' una storia molto lunga e complicata sull'amicizia di due amiche completamente diverse nel carattere e la loro vita a Napoli in mezzo a famiglie veramente pazzе. Ci sono conversazioni in gergo napoletano, pero' in questo caso il gergo non e' difficile da comprendere. Il romanzo non mi è piaciuto molto come letteratura pero' potrebbe essere perfetto per una classe d'italiano non molto avanzata.

L'affare Moro era per me uno dei migliori libri che abbiamo letto - la storia vera del rapimento e della morte di Aldo Moro alla fine degli anni 1970 in Italia. Vale la pena e non e' difficile da leggere.

To read a book in Italian is a great pleasure. Our Advanced Literature class has already read about ninety novels in total over a period of about thirteen/fourteen years. But to pick the first novel to read could be a bit scary. We think that we will not understand the meaning of all of the words and that we will not understand the plot easily. That could happen but this is normal.

If I had to choose a few books to be read by a class of Italian language students who have never read a complete novel in Italian, I would pick these three books: *'L'isola di Arturo'* by Elsa Morante, *'L'amica geniale'* by Elena Ferrante, or *'L'affare Moro'* by Leonardo Sciascia. These are three very different books but the language of all three is not too difficult to understand. *'L'isola di Arturo'* is not a long novel. Arturo lives on an island off Napoli on which there is also a prison. It is the story of his life on the island from birth to about the age of fourteen. *'L'amica geniale'*, a novel also well known in English, is a very long and complicated tale of the friendship of two young girls, later women, of very different characters and their life in Napoli in the midst of their totally crazy families. Short sections of the novel are written in Neapolitan dialect but in this case the dialect is not difficult to understand. I did not much care for the novel myself, but it could be a perfect read for a class of lesser level of Italian comprehension.

'L'affare Moro' was, on the other hand, for me one of the best books we have read in class. It's the true story of the kidnapping and murder of Aldo Moro in the mid-1970's in Italy. It is worth reading and not too hard to understand.



LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

Please visit our webpage: <http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/upcoming-events/>

Settimana della lingua italiana nel mondo, October 15-21

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

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ICS Membership
4833 Rugby Ave., Suite 201
Bethesda, MD 20814

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