SOCIAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS OVERVIEW
FIRST MONTHLY SOCIAL MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR WITH A SPECIAL CULINARY EVENT
Sunday September 22nd, 12PM - 3PM. Let’s make Pizza Rustica at a private residence in McLean!

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

In this, the inaugural message of the new social year, we would like to reflect on what our Society has achieved, indeed a remarkable feat, a Gala that has been the celebration of Italian ballet represented by dancer and choreographer Mimmo Miccolis and enhanced by local Prima ballerina and Artistic Director Julie Kent. Details on the evening at the Embassy of Italy are given in this issue of Poche Parole. The Gala has also been graced by the presence of Embassy personnel like Min. Maurizio Greganti, Chargé d’Affaires a.i., Minister Catherine Flumiani, Prof. Maria Fusco, Director of Education Office, and others, who have expressed their enjoyment for the evening and have shown their support by their presence and enthusiasm for all the activities of the Society. Among these was the recognition of scholarly achievement by young students in fields as diverse as the Classics, the Sciences both astrophysics and biology, Italian language at the high school and university levels, and piano performance at the high school and college levels. We will start the new social year with a practical demonstration of how to make an authentic Italian pizza in the beautiful house of an ICS member who has kindly offered to host us and use his forno a legna to bake the pizza. In October we will have an event related to the week of the Italian Language in the world at the Chevy Chase Village Hall as for last year. This event will be accompanied by a workshop for children. I am sure that the membership will be pleased to know that Italian Language Program has started in earnest with several additional courses as made clear from new recruiting activities for teachers and ICS personnel. I hope to see many of you at the first social. All best wishes for a fruitful and rewarding New Social Year!
Luigi M. De Luca
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The end of the 2018-19 social year was marked by our annual gala, a fundraising event, where we celebrated the excellence of Italian culture in its many aspects. In attendance were promoters and lovers of our Italian culture, students, teachers, entrepreneurs who support us, and awardees of our scholarships. This year’s theme was: “L’Italia e la Danza” and the highlight of the event was a very special guest, who works here in Washington, D.C., Mimmo Miccolis. We celebrated Mimmo Miccolis’s career with an outstanding documentary movie produced by Carola Mamberto, a dance performance and a conversation led by art critic Renato Miracco, with the participation of former American Ballet Theater star, Julie Kent, the artistic director of the Washington Ballet. The dance performance, “MET. AMOR.PHOSY”, is a story written in the 2nd century AD and then sculpted by Antonio Canova in the 18th century, “Psyche revived by Cupid’s kiss” now choreographed in a new version by Mimmo Miccolis. The dancers were the Italian Aurora Mostacci and Oscar Sanchez, from The Washington Ballet.
The live music was from JP Wogaman II, who also performed it at the piano, and the Italian Caterina Vannucci at the violin. Mr. Miccolis has won many awards including the “Outstanding Choreography Award” at the 2015 Youth Grand Prix Finals in New York, at the international ballet competition at Indianapolis in 2017, and at the 2016 semifinals in Pittsburgh. Mr. Miccolis boasts a long and prestigious career that has seen him dance on the stages of European, Middle Eastern, and United States theaters. Most of Mr. Miccolis’s choreographic work focuses on social issues and has been applauded at the Kennedy Center in Washington and at the Carnegie Hall in New York, among other venues.

We gratefully acknowledge the warm welcome by Minister Maurizio Greganti, Charge’ d’Affaires and the Italian diplomats attending the event. We are truly thankful to the Embassy of Italy for providing us with the perfect venue to also present the recipients of the ICS Awards in the areas of the Italian Language, Classics, Art, Music and Science. These scholarships have been made possible thanks to donations and fundraising events, as well as the generosity of our members. See Awardees 2019 on our website.

A unique silent auction, an aperitivo Italian style, an elegant table setting, and a delicious Italian...
dinner served by ORO Catering, two excellent piano performances (by winners of our awards) provided a fantastic conclusion to the evening. We would like to also thank the photographer, ICS board member, David Cieslikowski, who chronicled the event, as his donation. The press was present and you will find an article of our Gala in the Summer edition of Washington Life and La Voce di New York. The Gala 2019 was completely sold out and we would like to thank all of the participants who contributed to make it a success. We also invite you to visit our Facebook page to see pictures and the videos from the winners of Maria Wilmeth awards, and the Gala web page for more pictures and details.

Many thanks to our sponsors and individual donors (page 2), and to our auction sponsors: Poltrona Frau (armchair), Claudia Deferre (Apartment in San Remo), Sol’Art Trani Laura Marchese, Elite Island Resort, Fandango Tour, Donati Family (Montestigliano), Cathy MacNeil (villa in Chianti), Chef Geoff/Lia’s Restaurant, Barboursville Zonin and Barboursville Vineyards, Basilico (catering - dinner for 8), Gastaldi & Cecon (Winetasting for 10 at your home), Balducci, Instructors Nicoletta Nencioli, Antonella Salvatore and Dario Penzo (Italian classes), ICS Board of Directors (Wine selection), Campari, ILP certificate, Artisanal Pantry (Basket of Italian food products), Officina Restaurant, Framore, Claudia Donà (Focaccia workshop), Annelise Brody Morani (guided tour at Tintoretto’exibit, tango shoes and Rodan cosmetic products), Citterio (prosciutto), Jackson Coppley (meet the author), Felicia Toscano (guitar lessons), Masana Portrait Artwork NYC, EYMA Salon & Spa, Peter Brokt Salon, David Cieslikowski, Illy, PM Arte e Moda srl, Amina Rubinacci, Franca Bartoli, Claudia Duran (Facial for women and men), Melitta Paterni, A mano Georgetown, Lamborghini, Resource Furniture, The Choral Arts Society of Washington, Washington Bach Consort, The Washington Ballet (19/20 season)
REPORT OF THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM

BY FRANCESCA CASAZZA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This Summer, our teachers did an excellent job, teaching and engaging students in courses, summer camps and in a Latin Immersion week. Congratulazioni a tutti!

The Fall Schedule is online and registration is open: www.italianculturalsociety.org/italian-language-program/
Courses will start Monday, September 16th.

Here are the new courses:
- Listening to music in Italiano (B1-C2) by musician, conductor and teacher Felicia Toscano,
- How to read and critique a novel (B2-C2) by Sofia Caligiuri,
- Italian Archaeology (B1-C2) by Dario Penzo,
- A journey through Italy’s legends, rites and folk traditions – the seasonal, the sacred and the magical (B2-C2) by Journalist Nicoletta Nencioli, who is also offering Life from Italy - with writing;
- Literature of Renaissance Italy: Ariosto, Macchiavelli and Tasso (B2-C2) and Jewish literature during fascism (B2-C2) by Prof. Annelise Brody Morani.

Viviana Di Sciullo will continue her Cooking classes, and Prof. Luigi De Luca his Latin courses. Much more is on our schedule...over 50 classes for adults are starting in Bethesda, in Session 1, 4 in Fairfax, and possibly one in Frederick. You can find details online.

For the kids: Pre-school Italian Immersion 2-3 years old and 4-6 years old that will be offered before and after the new LABORATORIO MUSICALE in Italiano by Felicia Toscano. We hope parents will take the opportunity of this professionally organized class, combined to the language class, which allows the children to stay engaged for 2 and 2 1/2 hours.

Beginners, Advanced Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced Level, for different ages will take place in Bethesda, Fairfax and Frederick.

Finally we are pleased to host GUITAR LESSONS by Felicia Toscano at the ICS in Bethesda. Read more online! We include some pictures of Summer camps. Many more pictures and videos are on Facebook!

The ILP is looking forward to starting a new exciting year of teaching and learning with you!
FIRST MONTHLY SOCIAL MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR WITH A SPECIAL CULINARY EVENT

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND, 12:00-3:00PM

in a private home in McLean
The Italian Cultural Society of Washington DC welcomes you back to the first Monthly Social Meeting of the Academic Year with a special culinary event:

The staff of SFIZI Café will show you how to make the best PIZZA RUSTICA, we will enjoy aperitivo with Campari Spritz and Prosecco, lunch with pizza and BINDI dessert, digestivo with Amaro Averna and caffè Lavazza

Special Thanks to the event’s supporters: Mr. Lino Ricciardi - owner of SFIZI Café, Mr. Joe Apa and Mr. Michael Ricciardi

Learn more about our Social Meetings at: http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/get-involved/social-meetings/
The Sicily of Demetra and Kore - Cultural Tourist Routes is a book published in 2011 by the publishing house La Moderna Edizioni of Enna in Sicily. The book has the format 9.5x6.5 in. and consists of 158 pages. The book’s author, Dr. David Pirrera Rosso of Cerami has two degrees in archeology and preservation of cultural heritage at the University of Urbino (Umbria, Italy) and Tourism at the University of Messina (Sicily, Italy), he also studied at the State University of Tennessee and at First Colonial High School VA. He participated in the Italian archaeological expedition to Cyrene in Libya. In the first part of the book the author talks about the myth of Demetra and Kore showing a great cultural background and in-depth scientific research. According to mythology Demetra was the goddess of nature and controlled the life cycle of all living beings, she was the daughter of Kronos and Rhea and sister of Zeus; she had a daughter from Zeus, Persephone, also called Kore. According to the myth Kore, while picking flowers in the plain below mount Nysa, was kidnapped by Hades, king of the underworld. Demetra, the mother tried to find the daughter for nine days, travelling all over the known world. Exhausted at the end, she stopped at Eleusis (in Attica, Greece), at the well of Callicoro to rest, taking on the form of an old woman. Seeing her desperate, the daughter of King Celeus, danced to distract her, and took her to her father’s palace, where she was received with great kindness. In return, the goddess gave to Triptolemus, the eldest son of the king, a grain of wheat that no other mortal had ever seen, and told him how to make it grow, laying the groundwork for the development of agriculture. Helios (the sun god), a rival of Hades, revealed to the goddess that her daughter had been kidnapped by Hades and that Zeus decided to give her in marriage to Hades. The angry goddess made every plant wither and caused a terrible drought, threatening all forms of life. Zeus tried to appease the goddess but she replied that she would not resume her work as the nature goddess so long as Kore was forced to live in the underworld. Therefore, all forms of life on earth would be dead in no time. The father of the gods then called Hades and ordered him to return the girl to her mother, Hades agreed, but before releasing her he succeeded in forcing her to eat a pomegranate seed, the food of the dead. As a result Kore would have to spend at least part of the year in the underworld, just as the seed lives under the soil, then to germinate in the sunlight and bear fruit. Kore was then returned to the mother, with the condition that she would have to spend a third of the year with Hades in the underworld. The return of Kore on earth ended the drought, wheat sprouted again, and the cycle of nature restarted regularly. According to the myth the kidnap would have taken place on the shore of Lake Pergusa, now in the province of Enna, Sicily, at which point kidnapper and kidnapped would have traveled in part of Sicily on the surface to descend into the underworld near Siracusa, where since then the Ciane spring flows. The Ciane spring is a perpetual spring that flows from the ground and feeds the river Ciane in the province of Siracusa in Sicily, the river is also famous because it is the only place in Europe where the papyrus plant grows naturally along its course. Papyrus hand working is still important in the province of Siracusa. Since 1984 the course of the River Ciane has been a natural reserve of the Sicilian Region. After the description of the myth, the author moves on to talk about the great sanctuary of Eleusis in Greece (about 14 miles from Athens), the most important religious center for this myth. The Mysteria were celebrations for Demetra and Kore taking place twice a year in February-March
(Little Mysteries) and September-October (Great Mysteries). During the days of celebration the initiation of new recruits took place. The festival reached its most important part in the nights between 21 and 23 October, when those who were not initiates had to move away, while the recruits underwent secret ceremonies that took place in the sanctuary, to be reborn symbolically. The ritual was secret and it was strictly forbidden to divulge it. The most important part of the book examines how, following the Greek colonization of Sicily, the island began to spread the myth and the celebrations dedicated to Demetra and Kore. These myths often blended together in the celebrations of the local populations (Siculi, Sicanini, etc.), dedicated to mother earth and nature. The author examines with great care and in-depth historical and archaeological research many of the shrines dedicated to Demetra and Kore which were active in Sicily in Greek and Roman times. Sequentially, the author examines the sites of Monte Saraceno, Sabucina, Monte Giulfo, Enna, Montagna di Marzo and Morgantina in central Sicily; sites Ciminna and Selinunte in western Sicily; sites Siracusa, Eloro, Akrai, Terravecchia Grammichele, Ramacca, Lipari and Salina in eastern Sicily and the sites Monte Adranone, Agrigento, Kamarina, Licata and Gela in southern Sicily. The author focuses especially on the shrine of Enna, probably the most important place of Demetra worship in Sicily. Many testimonies of ancient scholars speak of this shrine: Aristotle, Diodorus Siculus, Ovid, Cicero, Valerius Maximus and others. In central Sicily the myth of Demetra and Kore assumed such importance that Enna minted coins with the effigy of the goddess. Even the Romans, after the conquest of Sicily, showed great respect and devotion to the shrine of Enna recognizing Demetra as the goddess Ceres of their mythology that then became the Ceres Ennese (meaning the Ceres of Enna). Even today, the University of Enna is called Enna Kore. The myth of Demetra-Ceres is still important today, the word cereal derives from Ceres commemorating her association with edible grains. Statues of Ceres top the domes of the Missouri State Capitol and the Vermont State House serving as a reminder of the importance of agriculture in the states’ economies and histories. There is also a statue of Ceres on top of the Chicago Board of Trade Building, which conducts trading in agricultural commodities. Ceres is also depicted on the official seal of New Jersey as a symbol of prosperity. In the last part of the book the author talks about the advent of Christianity and the transition from these ancient traditional celebrations of the new Catholic worship. Very interesting in this part is how both the periods of the year and the manner of operation of the religious parades overlap. Often the places are the same; on the old temples new churches were built, often using the same materials and existing structures. In general, I have a very positive opinion about this book. It is clear that the book is the result of extensive historical and archaeological research. It is pleasant and not at all difficult to read. The author skillfully balances the information that we have from traditional sources with modern archaeological evidence. The book contains about 50 illustrations mostly photos of the author taken at the sites he examined. Overall evaluation: Definitely a good read. Maybe we could think of an English translation to market it in the U.S.!

Riccardo R. G. Cannavo’

Please note that our Discovery Sicily Classes will be offered on September 13, 20 and 27 at the ICS - learn more

Nella prima parte del libro l’autore tratta del mito di Demetra e Kore dimostrando una grande preparazione culturale e una approfondita ricerca scientifica. Secondo la mitologia Demetra era la dea della natura e controllava il ciclo della vita di tutti gli esseri viventi, era figlia di Kronos e Rhea e sorella di Zeus, proprio da Zeus ha avuto una figlia, Kore chiamata anche Persefone.

Secondo il mito mentre Kore raccoglieva fiori, nella pianura sotto il monte Nysa, fu rapita da Ade, re degli inferi. Demetra, la madre, cercò la figlia per nove giorni, girando per tutto il mondo conosciuto. Esausta, alla fine, si fermò ad Eleusi (nella regione dell’Attica, in Grecia), presso il pozzo di Callicoro, per riposare prendendo le sembianze di una vecchia. Vedendola affranta, la figlia del re Celeo, danzò per distrarla, e la portò presso la reggia del padre, dove fu accolta con grande benevolenza.

In cambio la dea donò a Trittolemo, primogenito del re, un chicco di grano che nessun’altro mortale aveva mai visto, e gli rivelò il modo per farlo fruttare, gettando le basi per lo sviluppo dell’agricoltura. Elios (il dio del sole), rivale di Ade, rivela alla dea che la figlia era stata rapita da quest’ultimo e che Zeus aveva deciso di dargliela in sposa. La dea arrabbiata fece appassire ogni pianta e provocò una terribile siccità, minacciando ogni forma di vita.

Zeus tentò di calmare la dea ma lei rispose che non avrebbe ripreso il suo lavoro di dea della natura fino a quando Kore fosse stata costretta a vivere nel mondo sotterraneo. Di conseguenza tutte le forme di vita sulla terra sarebbero morte in poco tempo. Il padre degli dei chiamò Ade e gli ordinò di restituire la ragazza alla madre, Ade acconsentì, ma prima di liberare Kore riuscì a farle mangiare in chicco di melograno, cibo dei morti. Come conseguenza Kore avrebbe dovuto trascorrere almeno una parte dell’anno nel mondo sotterraneo, proprio come il seme che vive nel sottosuolo, per germogliare poi alla luce del sole e portare frutti. Kore venne quindi restituita alla madre, con la condizione che un terzo dell’anno avrebbe dovuto trascorrerlo con Ade nel regno dei morti. Il ritorno di Kore sulla terra pose fine alla siccità, il grano tornò a germogliare e il ciclo della natura riprese regolarmente. Secondo il mito il rapimento sarebbe avvenuto sulla riva del lago di Pergusa, oggi in provincia di Enna, in Sicilia, a questo punto rapitore e rapita avrebbero percorso una parte della Sicilia in superficie per scendere negli inferi nei pressi di Siracusa, dove da allora sgorga la sorgente Ciane.

La sorgente Ciane è una fonte perpetua che sgorga dal sottosuolo e alimenta il fiume Ciane in provincia di Siracusa in Sicilia, il fiume è anche famoso perché è l’unico posto in Europa dove la pianta di papiro cresce spontanea lungo il suo corso, la lavorazione tradizionale del papiro è ancora oggi una attività artigianale importante nella provincia di Siracusa. Dal 1984 tutto il corso del fiume Ciane è una riserva naturale della Regione Siciliana.

Dopo la descrizione del mito, l’autore passa a parlare del grande santuario di Eleusi in Grecia (circa 25 km. da Atene), il centro religioso più importante per questo mito. I Mysteria erano le celebrazioni per Demetra...
e Kore che avvenivano due volte l’anno a febbraio-marzo (Piccoli Misteri) e a settembre-ottobre (Grandi Misteri). I riti avevano carattere misterico e durante i giorni delle celebrazioni avvenivano le nuove iniziazioni degli adepti. La festa raggiungeva il culmine nelle notti tra il 21 e 23 ottobre e coloro che non erano iniziati dovevano allontanarsi, mentre gli iniziandi si sottoponevano a cerimonie segrete, che si svolgevano nel santuario per rinascere simbolicamente. Il rito era segreto ed era strettamente vietato divulgare il contenuto.

La parte più importante del libro esamina come a seguito della colonizzazione greca della Sicilia anche sull’isola cominciarono a diffondersi il mito e le celebrazioni dedicate a Demetra e Kore, spesso questi miti si facevano insieme alle celebrazioni delle popolazioni locali (Siculi, Sicani, etc.) dedicate alla madre terra e alla natura.

L’autore esamina con grande attenzione e approfondita ricerca storico-archeologica molti dei santuari dedicati a Demetra e Kore che sono stati attivi in Sicilia in epoca greca e romana, seguendo l’ordine del libro l’autore esamina i siti di Monte Saraceno, Sabucina, Monte Giulfo, Enna, Montagna di Marzo e Morgantina nella Sicilia centrale; i siti di Ciminna e Selinunte nella Sicilia occidentale; i siti di Siracusa, Elyros, Akrai, Terravecchia di Grammichele, Ramacca, Lipari e Salina nella Sicilia orientale; i siti di Monte Adrianone, Agrigento, Kamariana, Licata e Gela nella Sicilia meridionale.


Ancora oggi l’università di Enna si chiama Enna Kore. Il mito di Demetra-Cerere è importante ancora oggi, la parola cereale deriva da Cerere e sottolinea la sua associazione con il grano. Statue di Cerere sono presenti sopra le cupole del parlamento statale del Missouri e sulla camera dei deputati del Vermont come simbolo per ricordare l’importanza dell’agricoltura nell’economia e nella storia degli stati americani. Un’altra statua è presente sull’edificio del commerce di Chicago in cui si svolgono gli scambi commerciali legati al settore agricolo. La dea Cerere è anche raffigurata sullo stema ufficiale dello stato del New Jersey come simbolo di prosperità.

Nell’ultima parte del libro l’autore parla dell’avvento del cristianesimo e del passaggio da queste antiche celebrazioni tradizionali al nuovo culto cattolico. Molto interessante in questa parte è come si sovrappongono sia i periodi dell’anno, sia le modalità di svolgimento delle nuove processioni religiose. Spesso anche i luoghi rimangono gli stessi, sui vecchi templi vengono costruite le nuove chiese spesso utilizzando le strutture preesistenti e gli stessi materiali.

In generale la mia opinione di lettore è molto positiva, si vede chiaramente che il libro è frutto di un’approfondita ricerca storico-archeologica. La lettura risulta piacevole, scorrevole e per nulla difficile. L’autore bilancia saggiamente le informazioni che ci tramanda la tradizione con i riscontri archeologici moderni, il libro contiene circa 50 illustrazioni in gran parte foto dell’autore scattate nei siti presi in esame. Valutazione finale... da leggere assolutamente... magari potremmo pensare a una traduzione in inglese per metterlo in commercio negli Stati Uniti!

Riccardo R. G. Cannavo’
LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

**Gelato Festival America:** September 7th & 8th, from 11am-7pm, DC’s City Market at O – 8th Street

**Please visit our webpage:** [http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/upcoming-events/](http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/upcoming-events/)

**And visit The Italian Cultural Institute’s calendar:** [www.iicwashington.esteri.it/iic_washington/it](http://www.iicwashington.esteri.it/iic_washington/it)

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