As the blessings of the Fall Season start showing, we celebrated our commencement for the new Social Year at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Apa, who kindly hosted a pizza making demonstration at their wood-oven facility with the essential help by Mr. Lino Ricciardi and his crew of faithful and magisterial executors from Sfizi Café. The pizzas were consumed as they emerged hot and fragrant from the oven, accompanied by all kinds of refreshments and side dishes contributed by the ICS and its members. It was a wonderful and memorable occasion enjoyed by all of us. The intense preparatory work by our Executive Director Francesca Casazza and her team of hard-working associates resulted in a beautiful afternoon, very enjoyable for venue, hospitality, taste and perfect weather conditions. Thanks to all who contributed to making it a great success!

The next social event will occur on Sunday, October 20 at the Chevy Chase Village Hall. Prof. Gianni Cicali of Georgetown University will help us celebrate the 19th edition of the Week of the Italian Language in the World (October 21-27 2019, La settimana della lingua Italiana nel mondo) with a talk on this year’s ICS theme “L’italiano sul palcoscenico” (Italian on stage). I hope to see many of you at this event, which is intended to support the Week of Italian Language in the World.

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Special thanks to SFIZI Café and BINDI Dessert

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WE ARE SOCIAL!
Follow us on Instagram: @italian.cultural.society
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OCTOBER SOCIAL MEETING

To celebrate the week of the Italian language in the world we are pleased to invite you to Prof. Cicali’s talk “Languages of the Italian theater, from Venice to Naples”. The event welcomes also the little ones, who will be engaged in a kids workshop held in Italian in the adjacent room by actress Tiziana Risolo.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 20, 2019
from 3 to 5 PM
Chevy Chase Village Hall
5906 Connecticut Ave NW
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
RSVP: rsvp@italianculturalsociety.org

GIANNI CICALI
Gianni Cicali (Florence, Italy) is associate professor of Italian Theater at Georgetown University. Cicali is a specialist in History of Italian Theater (Renaissance, Baroque and 18th-century). He holds doctoral degrees from both Italy (Università di Firenze) and Canada (University of Toronto). He is author of a book on the Italian “Opera buffa” based on textual and archive research, and of L’Inventio crucis nel teatro rinascimentale fiorentino (2012). In 2015 he edited the book “Teatro italiano fra testo performance e scena”, special issue of Quaderni d’Italianistica. He published several articles on International journals and gave lectures at De Paul University, Bryn Mawr College, Università di Firenze, Università di Bergamo, Università Federico II of Naples, Università di Bari, University of Toronto, Italian Embassy in the US, and other renowned institutions. Gianni Cicali has been Editor of Quaderni d’Italianistica (journal of the Canadian Society for Italian Studies) from 2011 to 2015, and he is a member of several Advisory and Editorial Boards of International academic journals.

LANGUAGES OF THE ITALIAN THEATER, FROM VENICE TO NAPLES
Italian theater has various roots: one is linked to the Renaissance and the intellectuals who rediscovered the Classic texts of the Latin tradition; another became the Commedia dell’Arte, the theater of Masks and dialects. From 1600 we have to include melodramma, that was both serious and comic. This talk will explain and present various forms of Italian theater (sacred, humanist-classic, the commedia dell’Arte, opera) and also relevant authors such as Machiavelli, Goldoni, Metastasio, Pirandello spanning from the Renaissance to the 20th century with particular attention to the language, to the dialects and to the capitals of the Italian theater industry.

MEANWHILE... KIDS WORKSHOP - THE MIMIC METHOD IN ITALIAN
In the adjacent room, this 1 hour workshop will introduce children 4-12 years old to one of the most important acting techniques: the Mimic Method. This is an exercise that the little ones know well and that theater and cinema actors study in order to play new roles and characters. This workshop will present the Mimic Method by Orazio Costa, master of Italian theater, and will be held by his former student, actress Tiziana Risolo. Tiziana is also a renowned theater teacher at School of Arts in Grottaglie, linked to MTS - Musical! The School of Milano.

Light Refreshments with Aperol Spritz and merenda for the children will follow
SEPTEMBER SOCIAL MEETING - A CULINARY EXPERIENCE

BY CLAUDIA BORGHINI, EVENTS COORDINATOR

The September Meeting marked the start of the 2019-2020 social year in a beautiful residence in McLean, VA. Our guests enjoyed a typical Italian Aperitivo while cooling down with a glass or two of our Campari and Aperol Spritz. After a brief welcome speech, our Executive Director, Francesca Casazza, described the upcoming cultural events of the year, and thanked Mr. and Mrs. Joe Apa for being so kind to host the event, showing a great support for the Society. Francesca then introduced Mr. Lino Ricciardi, the owner of Sfizi Café, who kindly offered to show how to make authentic pizza using the forno a legna (wood oven). Mr. Ricciardi and his team worked hard to provide wonderful pizza to our guests, who were able to customize their own by selecting the toppings they prefer.

In this stupendous day of end of summer, we had the pleasure to meet many of our students and members, while also welcoming new friends. To add an additional Italian taste to the event, after lunch we offered coffee, amaro Averna and superb pasticciini gifted by Bindi Dessert. In spite of the heat, these delicious pastries were the perfect finishing touch to this first event of the season.
REPORT OF THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM
BY FRANCESCA CASAZZA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are excited to announce that for Session 1 of this Fall Term, we opened 60 courses in Bethesda MD, that is eight more compared to last year (52) and nineteen more compared to two years ago (41). Twelve of those are children’s courses. Additionally, on October 28th, we will launch 15 more courses for Session 2.

We recently started the first lessons of the Term in Virginia, with three courses for adults and three for children (last year, two and two).

You are still in time to join our Italian classes! Check our schedule online at: http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/italian-language-program/

Cooking classes, Yoga in Italian and Guitar lessons in Italian are a great plus to our program. We are lucky to attract such professional teachers.

The first Children’s Themed Workshop of the season is planned for October 20th during the October Social Meeting (see page 3), that hosts an interesting presentation by Prof. Gianni Cicali. 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 (21 to 27 October 2019), dedicated to the theme “L’Italiano e il palcoscenico”. The actress Tiziana Risolo will offer to our children a workshop on the mimic method. It will be held in Italian, with translations, if needed. Don’t miss it!
VERROCCHIO EXHIBITION AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

BY CLAUDIA BORGHINI

From September 15, 2019 through January 12, 2020 the National Gallery of Art presents the exhibition on “Verrocchio: Sculptor and Painter of Renaissance Florence”. This is the first time that a United States art gallery welcomes a monographic exhibition on Andrea del Verrocchio, innovative artist, sculptor, painter, and well known as Leonardo Da Vinci’s teacher. You will be able to admire over 50 of his extraordinary masterpieces in painting and sculpture.

Verrocchio was a visionary and one of the most important personalities in Renaissance Florence, alongside artists like Donatello and Michelangelo.

Among his accomplishments we have the discovery of unprecedented media techniques and astonishing naturalism and beauty. Verrocchio and his draftsman work deeply influenced Leonardo and Raphael’s drawings. Verrocchio’s art studio became a sort of laboratory of experimentation and innovation, which lead Florence to the revolutionary period of High Renaissance in the 1600s.

We highly recommend our readers to view this unique exhibition at the National Gallery of Art of Washington DC.

SOPHIA LOREN

FILM FESTIVAL

We are honored to present “An Evening with Sophia Loren” November 20 and 21 from 7:30pm at Montgomery College, Rockville, MD

The Meet & Greet event with world famous actress Sophia Loren is partly sponsored by The Italian Cultural Society

Members will benefit from a 5% discount of the ticket price for the show

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2019 / 2020 Season

MARRIAGE
ITALIAN STYLE

ACADEMY AWARD NOMINEE
BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM
Vittorio De Sica
Italy/France, 1964, 102 mins,
Color • Italian (English Subtitles)
November 15, 2019, 7 p.m.

One of the most famous, and funniest, Italian comedies of all time, Marriage Italian Style stars Sophia Loren as a mistress of Marcello Mastroianni who resorts to a series of wild and hilarious ruses to win his hand in marriage.

SUNFLOWER

Vittorio De Sica
Italy/France/Soviet Union/USA,
1970, 107 mins, Color • Italian/
English/Russian (English Subtitles)
November 16, 2019, 7 p.m.

An Oscar nominee for Best Score (Henry Mancini), Sunflower is a grandly emotional melodrama featuring a stunning performance from Sophia Loren desperately searching to find her missing husband (Marcello Mastroianni) on the WWII battlefields of Russia.

A SPECIAL DAY

Ettore Scola
Italy/Canada, 1977, 106 mins,
Color • Italian (English Subtitles)
November 16, 2019, 9:15 p.m.

Rome has been mustered to a parade for Hitler. Antonietta (Loren), left alone to her chores, meets the only other person left on their block, Gabriele (Mastroianni), a suicidal radio announcer. The two, who are poles apart, forge an unexpectedly close friendship that will change their perceptions of love, politics and life itself.

YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW

Fellini, Mario Monicelli, and
Vittorio De Sica
Italy/France, 1960, 119 mins,
Color • Italian (English Subtitles)
November 17, 2019, 7 p.m.

Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow is a set of four comic moral tales about the hypocrisies surrounding sex in 1960s Italy.

BOCCACCIO ‘70

Vittorio De Sica, Federico Fellini, Mario Monicelli, and
Luchino Visconti
France/Italy, 1962, 125 mins,
Color • Italian/German (English Subtitles)
November 12, 2019, 9:15 p.m.

In this landmark anthology film directed by four of Italy’s most legendary film-makers, Sophia Loren stars in four comic moral tales about the hypocrisies surrounding sex in 1960s Italy.

TWO WOMEN

Vittorio De Sica
Italy/France, 1961, 100 mins,
Color • Italian/German (English Subtitles)
November 19, 2019, 7 p.m.

Two Women finally gets the release it deserves, restored and remastered in HD, doing justice to this neo-realist masterpiece which won Sophia Loren an Oscar® for ‘Best Actress’ – the first ever in a foreign-language film. In WWII Italy, a widow and her daughter seek to put distance between them and the horrors of war.

HOUSEBOAT

Melville Shavelson
USA, 1958, 110 mins, Color •
English/Italian (English Subtitles)
November 22, 2019, 7 p.m.

A widower, his three young children, and a bored Italian nanny get to know each other better when circumstances have them living together aboard a badly neglected houseboat.

GRUMPIER OLD MEN

Howard Deutch
USA, 1995, 101 mins, Color •
English/Italian/German (English Subtitles)
November 23, 2019, 7 p.m.

John and Max resolve to save their boarded up bait shop from turning into an Italian restaurant, just as its new female owner catches Max’s attention.

THE BLACK ORCHID

Martin Ritt
USA, 1958, 96 mins, B&W •
English (English Subtitles)
November 23, 2019, 9 p.m.

After mobsters murder her husband, Rose Bianco works long hours making artificial flowers to support herself and her son. Some suspect that Rose’s demand for a lavish lifestyle pushed her husband to a life of crime, and they blame her for his death.

ARABESQUE

Stanley Donen
USA, 1966, 105 mins, Color •
English (English Subtitles)
November 24, 2019, 7 p.m.

A story of international intrigue involving a university professor, an Arab prime minister, a ruthless businessman, a beautiful spy and hieroglyphics.
LETTER OF JOANNE MARTIN TO HER SON, RICHARD, UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN FLORENCE

From Our Archives: A tribute to the memory of Joanne Martin (chosen by Luigi M. De Luca and translated by Claudia Borghini). This letter was published on the Poche Parole, Vol. XIII, May 1998. This is the letter that Josephine (Joanne) P. Martin (May 25, 1909-February 28, 2007), a member of the ICS, wrote to her son, Richard, when he was ready to take up his post as a diplomat at the American Consulate in Florence, Italy. It is a moving letter that shows Joanne’s strong affection for Italy, the country of her parents and her own birthplace, Cesena in Romagna. It is meant to celebrate Joanne’s memory: She was a loyal and dedicated member of the ICS for many years and had contributed to the success of the Society much before I myself started my membership in it and alongside Maria Wilmeth, Pino Cicala, Anna Neri, Maria Di Francesco and other foundational personalities, who should be remembered as well.

Dear Richard,

Benvenuto! to the enchanting home of half of your ancestors!
I hope you will be proud and pleased with this gem of a little country, set apart in the midst of two shimmering seas.
So many greats have trod her soil, drank of its waters and eaten the fruit of its bounty. How many have looked at the blue Italian sky by day and been caressed by its soft breezes by night.
Its people are both humble and proud and at the same time profound in their simplicity. They have created around themselves a love for all that is beautiful.

Questa è la lettera che Josephine (Joanne) P. Martin (25 maggio 1909 -7 febbraio 2007), socia di ICS, scrisse a suo figlio, Richard, quando lui lasciò l’America per adempiere al suo nuovo incarico di diplomatico presso il Consolato Americano di Firenze. È una lettera commovente, che mostra il forte amore di Joanne per l’Italia, terra dei suoi genitori e luogo in cui era venuta al mondo, a Cesena di Romagna. Con questa lettera onoriamo la memoria di Joanne: è stata socia fidata e appassionata dell’Italian Cultural Society per molti anni prima che io mi unissi alla società, ed ha contribuito al suo successo insieme a Maria Wilmeth, Pino Cicala, Anna Neri, Maria Di Francesco e altri fondatori, che è sempre bene ricordare.

Caro Richard,

Benvenuto nell’affascinante terra dei tuoi antenati!
Spero che tu sia orgoglioso e fiero di questo paese meraviglioso, abbracciato sui lati da due mari luccicanti.
Tanti personaggi del passato hanno calpestato questo suolo, bevuto la sua acqua, e mangiato i frutti della sua abbondanza. Quanti hanno alzato lo sguardo verso questo cielo azzurro di giorno, e quanti sono stati accarezzati dalla dolce brezza della notte. Gli abitanti sono umili, orgogliosi e profondi nella loro semplicità. Hanno sviluppato un amore profondo per le bellezze di questa terra.
Their hands stretch out and hold both yesterday and today. Their hearts are warm and capable of great love and devotion. Their naturally fine voices sing the great operas as easily as others sing their simple folk songs.

Every country has something special to contribute. This, my beloved country is a land of artists, musicians and poets. The love of the family is at the center of their life. “Everyone knows the Mediterranean mother crowns her child and makes him king without shame or apology. This is expressed in every conceivable way by the artist’s portrayal of the Madonna and child, blending the natural and the supernatural together.”

Happiness to them is found in companionship, in an idea which engrosses the mind, a tender look, a glimpse of beauty. The Italian is not cautious or thrifty, nor small spirited, and there is charm in the company of such people.”

I hope the part of you which is Italian will have the feeling that you have come home—if not to stay for a long visit. I cannot welcome you in person as I did in South America. That was a miracle! That long range planning must be attributed to God. I felt He had saved that little surprise for me for many years.

I take this way of reminding you of what Dante once said “to consider from what noble seed you spring.” As for myself Browning put the thoughts of my heart into poetry—

Open my heart and you will see,
Graved inside of it—Italy,
Such lovers old are I and She,
So it always was, so shall ever be.

Much love, Mother

Abbracciano il suo passato e allo stesso tempo si aprono sul domani. I loro cuori sono caldi, e capaci di grande amore e devozione. Le loro voci così naturalmente affascinanti cantano le grandi opere con la disinvoltura con cui gli altri popoli cantano le proprie canzonette.

Ogni nazione ha qualcosa di speciale che la caratterizza. Questa, la mia amata Italia, è la terra di artisti, musicisti e poeti. Al centro della loro vita c’è l’amore per la famiglia. “Tutti sanno che le mamme mediterranee incoronano i propri figli, li rendono i loro piccoli principi, senza ritegno e senza vergogna. Questo viene rappresentato in vari modi dagli artisti nei ritratti di Madonna con Bambino, dove uniscono il reale al soprannaturale.”

Le persone trovano felicità nello stare insieme, un’idea che eleva la mente con un tocco tenero e dolce. Gli italiani non sono contenuti o parsimoniosi, e nemmeno privi di spirito. Questo è ciò che rende affascinante la loro compagnia. Spero che il tuo lato italiano si senta a casa, e se non per sempre, almeno per questo lungo periodo. Non posso accoglierti di persona come feci in Sud America. Quello fu un miracolo! Solo l’intervento di Dio puo’ permettere un tale incontro. Sentii che Lui aveva pianato da tempo quell’incontro. Ricordati di quello che una volta disse Dante “Considerate la vostra semenza: fatti non foste a viver come bruti, ma per seguir virtute e canoscenza”. Io penso che Browning abbia espresso bene in poesia quanto io sento:

Apri il mio cuore e vedrai
scolpiti dentro l’Italia
siamo vecchi amanti, io e lei
cosi è sempre stato, e così sempre sarà!

Con tanto amore, mamma
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