SOCIAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS OVERVIEW

SCREENING OF “IT WILL BE CHAOS” EMMY AWARD WINNING, HBO DOCUMENTARY
Saturday, March 21st at 4:30PM at the ICS Headquarters

THE ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY GALA 2020
Friday, May 15th at 6PM at the Embassy of Italy

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Greetings to all! It is with great excitement that I recently accepted the appointment as President of the Board of Directors by the Board of the Italian Cultural Society of Washington, DC. I want to extend a heartfelt “thank you” to our past President, and now President Emeritus, Luigi De Luca, for his many years of leadership and service. Luigi plans to remain on the board and to be an active member of our community. It is thanks to Luigi and our amazing Executive Director, Francesca Casazza, that the society has experienced rapid growth in recent years. Our language program is second to none and the group of professors that Francesca has assembled is truly impressive. I am very enthusiastic about working with Francesca and the entire team to further the important mission of our organization.

As Francesca pointed out when she introduced me at our Festa di Carnavale last week, I am the first non-Italian to lead the Board of the ICS. I am, however, a speaker of several languages, and have been a very active participant in both classes and activities of the Society over the last several years and have a passion for the Italian language and culture. It has been a joy, for example, to read Dante’s La Divina Commedia, Boccaccio’s Decameron, Aristo’s Orlando Furioso in italiano antico with Professor Annelise Brody over the last two years. I look forward to many years of ongoing exploration of the Italian language and culture. Previously, as a member of the board, I was responsible for focusing on our music and cultural activities. For example, I arranged the very interesting and well-attended social event in which Dr. Richard Giarusso, Music Director of the Georgetown Choral and Chairman of the Musicology Department of the Peabody Conservatory, gave a talk about the Puccini “Messa di Gloria.” On April 19, we will be presenting a session on three woman composers of the early Baroque era in Italy, about which I will have more to say next month.

Congratulations to our wonderful staff for the fun and successful Festa di Carnavale. This event was sold out several days in advance. The innovation of the Trivia Contest using some online technology was a wonderful addition to the events of the day. As always, seeing the children (and some of the adults!) in costumes was a highlight of the day.

Please mark your calendars for Friday, May 15, when we will be presenting our annual Gala at the Italian Embassy. This is the major fund-raising event of the year for the Society. As in the past, it will feature a silent auction, awards, and an honoree. We will be telling you much more about this event in the coming days and weeks.

I look forward to serving the Italian Cultural Society as its new Board president during what promises to be an exciting time for the organization. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or to express an interest in getting more involved with the activities of the board or the organization as a whole. Ciao, tutti!

David Flaxman
President of the Board of Directors
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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
Family: Giovanna Galletta and Carmine Varriale, Shanti Sethi and family

WE ARE SOCIAL!
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ITALIAN CONVERSATION
Before the Social Meeting at 3:30-4:30PM, one of our board members will lead an Italian Conversation Session for those of you who want to practice their Italian. Please RSVP at rsvp@italianculturalsociety.org if you would like to participate.

IT WILL BE CHAOS
Set against the backdrop of the worst European migrant crisis since WWII, It Will Be Chaos unfolds between Italy and the Balkan corridor. Five-years in the making, the film features two refugee stories of human strength and resilience while capturing in real time the escalating tension between newcomers and locals. The cinema verite documentary intertwines the harrowing journey of Aregai, an Eritrean shipwreck survivor fleeing his country’s dictatorship, with the story of Wael, embarking on a life-threatening trip to bring his Syrian wife and four kids to safety in Germany.
SPECIAL EVENT - FESTA DI CARNEVALE
BY CLAUDIA BORGHINI, MARKETING AND EVENTS COORDINATOR

On Saturday, February 22nd many adults and children came together to celebrate Carnevale, a costume party that included a fun trivia game with questions on Italian culture, costume contests (as most original we awarded a family of Ninja Turtles, as most traditional we awarded a beautiful young lady in red with a wonderful Venician mask, and the best children costume was won by the “FIAT car” boy). Children were entertained with a themed workshop organized by Maestra Fiorenza and Le D.I.V.E. Delicious aperitivo, with Aperol Spritz, dolci carnevaleschi and chiacchiere, kindly offered by Mamma Lena Trattoria Napoletana, followed. We spent a lovely afternoon together, and we learned about Carnevale in different cities of Italy by listening to our young students’ presentations and admiring their colorful posters. The many winners of our costume contests, trivia game, dolce di carnevale contest and raffle received special gourmet prizes kindly sponsored by Framore.
THE ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY GALA 2020
FRIDAY, MAY 15TH AT THE EMBASSY OF ITALY, DOORS OPEN AT 5:45PM

With our annual Gala we celebrate the excellence of Italian culture in its many aspects, students, teachers, entrepreneurs who support us, awardees of our scholarships, promoters and lovers of our culture. This year’s theme is: “L’Italia e il Teatro”.

The ICS Gala will benefit our Cultural Events fund, our Italian Language and Music Program as well as the Scholarship Awards Program.

SPONSORS AND DONORS ARE WELCOME TO CONTACT US
We look forward to celebrating Italian culture again, in the beautiful and charming atmosphere that we all create, thanks to your support!

The ICS Gala sells out every year, so purchase your ticket soon online at www.italianculturalsociety.org/gala-2020
ICS SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

The Italian Cultural Society (ICS) sponsors a variety of special awards to honor Washington, D.C. area elementary, high school and university students who excel in the study of Italian language. Other award categories acknowledge excellence in Latin/Greek, piano performance, painting and art and science.

Awards are made possible through donations and fundraising events. If a donor wishes, ICS can create and name a new award, perhaps as a memorial or to honor a cause. To make a donation, please contact our office, 301-215-7885. The Italian Cultural Society of Washington, D.C. is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. All donations to ICS are 100% tax deductible.

The Awards will be presented at the prestigious ICS Gala Dinner Awards at the Embassy of Italy on May 15th, 2020. Attendance at the Awards Gala is a requirement to receive an award, with the exception of the Cesarina Horing and the Maura Maffia Awards. The winners of the Luciana Montanari-Mendola award may be asked to perform at the Awards Gala.

APPLICATION

All ICS Award applications must be postmarked by April 6th, 2020.

The ICS Awards Committee oversees the selection process and will announce the winners. Awardees will be acknowledged the ICS newsletter Poche Parole and on the ICS website. Additional information on each award is noted below. Applications should be sent to:

The Italian Cultural Society, Awards Committee
4833 Rugby Avenue, Suite #201
Bethesda, MD 20814

or via email to language@italianculturalsociety.org

APPLICATION INFO ONLINE AT
www.italianculturalsociety.org/get-involved/awards-scholarships/

1. Italian Language Awards for University Students
The Cesarina Horing Awards honor students at three prominent universities in the Washington, D.C. area that offer a major in Italian: Georgetown University, the University of Maryland and Catholic University (one student at each university will receive a $500 award). In addition, students at three universities, which offer a minor in Italian: George Washington University, American University, and George Mason University (one student at each of these universities will receive a $300 award). The awardees are selected by the Departments of Italian at the respective universities. (No applicants for these awards).

2. Italian Language Awards for High School Students
The Maria Guarerra Wilmeth Award honors two outstanding students from a Washington metropolitan area high school in which the study of Italian language is part of the curriculum. The award provides $500 each for each student.

3. Scholarship for Elementary and Middle School Students
The Maura Guida Maffia Award honors a student who is interested in taking an ICS course and needs some encouragement or financial support. Students can apply for this scholarship to take an annual ILP class ($900) for free.

4. ICS Awards for students under the age of 31
• Latin and/or Greek with a $1,000 award
• Luciana Montanari-Mendola Awards provides one $1,000 award for piano performance excellence
• Anna Menapace Award provides one $500 award to a high-school student who excels in the art
• Patricia Segnan Award provides one $1,000 award to a university student who has excelled in the study of Art and Art History.

5. ICS Young Scientist Award under the age of 36
The ICS recognizes the accomplishments of Italian scientists working in the Washington area. A $1,000 award is to given to an Italian national working in the Washington area as a doctoral student or as a post-doctoral student or an equivalent
REPORT OF THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM
BY FRANCESCA CASAZZA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Spring Schedule for our ILP courses is online at www.italianculturalsociety.org/italian-language-program/.

Starting on Friday March 27th, this Spring Term will offer each level of our traditional courses and new courses.

LINGUA, ARTE & MUSICA on Saturdays at the ICS in Bethesda!

We are excited to offer Italian Art Classes for adults and children (8 yrs and older), a family class, with artist Sofia Caligiuri, to learn fundamental concepts of drawing “Ornato e Natura Morta,” as well as composition and perspective. The program will also focus on masterpieces of great Italian artists. More details online at www.italianculturalsociety.org/art-classes/

This class will take place at the same time of Italian Immersion 4-6 yrs old, and right before Laboratorio Musicale in Italiano 6-8 yrs old, with Maestro Felicia Toscano. Our Saturdays start at 9:15 with the 2-3 years old Italian Immersion, followed by Laboratorio musicale 3-5 yrs old. In the afternoon, 5 classes for older kids and a conversation class for adults.

Friday March 13, Maestra Fiorenza will offer the monthly Parents night out - Kids Workshop: La festa del Papà. Reserve your spot at www.italianculturalsociety.org/children-workshops/

Finally, register for our Summer Camps at www.italianculturalsociety.org/italian-language-program/summer-camps/. Early bird discount ends on April 1st.

Next Immersion course for travelers will take place the weekend of March 21st-22nd.

Going back to Spring Schedule for adults, among the new advanced courses, and in preparation for the upcoming Gala “L’Italia e il teatro,” Prof. Annelise Brody Morani will teach the course Il teatro di Dario Fo (B2-C2).

Silvana De Luca will offer three courses of Italian through Cinema (B2-C2) (Un eroe Borghese - Michele Placido; Cristo si è fermato a Eboli - Francesco Rosi; La mafia uccide solo d’estate - Pierfrancesco Diliberto). Felicia Toscano will teach Listening to music in italiano (B1-C2) to learn different musical genres.

Dario Penzo will teach Roman History and Archology, (B1-C2). Journalist Nicoletta Nencioli will offer Live from Italy and A Journey through Italy’s legends, rites and folk traditions (B2-C2).

More courses include: Literature of Renaissance Italy, Il Gattopardo, Italiano per buongustai, Latin, Cooking Classes, Yoga, Guitar lessons, and more as listed on the schedule.

Looking forward to enjoying the Italian language and culture with a growing community in DC, MD and VA!

Together with our colleagues of Casa Italiana, we attended a 3-day CELI training course. We are ready for the March 9th CELI exam!
LASCIANDO “THE WORLD” PER VISITARE LA SICILIA
DI THOMAS OTTO, STUDENTE ICS

Quando ‘The World’ è arrivato in Sicilia il nostro viaggio era quasi finito. Mancavano solo un giorno a Siracusa e poi due giorni in macchina per arrivare a Palermo. Ma abbiamo fatto molto e mangiato molto in quei tre brevi giorni.

La prima mattina a Siracusa siamo andati al mercato all’aperto. Il nostro appartamento sulla nave non aveva una cucina come altri appartamenti più grandi così non abbiamo comprato cibo da riportare sulla nave. Pochi minuti dopo il nostro arrivo ha cominciato a piovere a dirotto e il vento era così forte che la pioggia sembrava orizzontale. Così ci siamo rifugiati in un piccolo negozio che serviva anche cibo caldo e abbiamo ordinato due piatti di pasta alle 11 di mattina.

Dopo una giornata trascorsa a visitare Siracusa, siamo andati in un piccolo ristorante dove, anche con le mie scarse abilità in italiano, ho tradotto per una coppia di americani al tavolo accanto al nostro. Ho capito solo il 30 percento di quello che la cameriera diceva, ma è stato abbastanza per permettere alla coppia di ottenere quello che voleva.

Il giorno dopo dovevamo lasciare The World così la cognata del nostro amico poteva salire a bordo della nave e prendere possesso del “nostro” appartamento. Abbiamo noleggiato un’auto e ci siamo diretti ad Agrigento, passando per Ragusa. Siamo voluti andare a Ragusa perché c’è un ristorante con due stelle Michelin. Purtroppo abbiamo trascorso solo altri due giorni in Sicilia, quindi avevamo solo tempo per il pranzo al Ristorante Duomo. Abbiamo ordinato un menu di sette portate, mio marito ha anche ordinato vino con ogni portata. L’atmosfera, il servizio, e ovviamente, il cibo erano fantastici.

Alla fine del pasto quando non potevamo ingoiare un altro boccone, il cameriere ha portato un carrello al nostro tavolo con sopra un panettone. Ha detto che in Sicilia mangiano panettone tutto l’anno e che era stato appena sfornato quella mattina. Ha detto che in Sicilia mangiano panettone tutto l’anno e che era stato appena sfornato quella mattina. Ha insistito che ne provassimo almeno un pezzettino. Ha messo sopra una salsa alla vaniglia che ancora non so come descrivere e un pezzo di mandarino candito. È stata forse la cosa migliore che abbia mai mangiato.

Sentendomi come un maiale impagliato, e anche un po’ quando ‘The World’ arrivò in Sicilia il nostro viaggio è quasi finito. Mancavano solo un giorno a Siracusa e poi due giorni in macchina per arrivare a Palermo. Ma abbiamo fatto molto e mangiato molto in quei tre brevi giorni.

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Sentendomi come un maiale impagliato, e anche un po’
stanco, ho dovuto guidare altre tre ore per arrivare ad Agrigento. Erano quasi le sette di sera quando siamo arrivati ad Agrigento, quindi non c’erano molte persone nella Valle dei Templi e la temperatura era più fresca, dopo la giornata calda. E poiché il sole era più basso nel cielo era meglio per le foto. Dopo una lunga giornata in cui avevamo mangiato e guidato tanto eravamo stanchi quando siamo arrivati al nostro albergo, Masseria Agnello, nella campagna fuori Agrigento. Abbiamo avuto abbastanza tempo per fare un tuffo in piscina prima di cena.

Il giorno successivo abbiamo deciso di andare direttamente a Palermo invece di guidare lungo la costa. Avevamo i biglietti per l’opera quella sera, e la mattina dopo dovevamo prendere un aero per Monaco quindi volevamo almeno un po’ di tempo per visitare Palermo. Dato che il nostro nuovo percorso sarebbe stato sull’autostrada invece che lungo la costa, ho pensato che lo scenario non sarebbe stato molto interessante. Ma mi sbagliavo. I campi, le montagne, e le viste occasionali sul mare erano molto belli. Quando siamo arrivati a Palermo abbiamo restituito la macchina e siamo andati al nostro albergo nel centro.

Palermo è una città affascinante. Con solo un giorno per vederla abbiamo trascorso la maggior parte del tempo a passeggiare cercando di assorbirne il più possibile. L’architettura è un meraviglioso misto di culture con una forte influenza moresca. Ma, come sempre, il nostro pensiero costante era il cibo. Dopo il grande pranzo del giorno precedente, l’unica cosa che volevo era un grande piatto semplice di pasta. Abbiamo camminato per una strada con molti ristoranti all’aperto e pieni di gente. Ne abbiamo scelto uno con le tovaglie di plastica e le sedie di plastica e nessun cliente. E quel piatto di pasta era una delle cose più soddisfacenti che io abbia mai mangiato. O almeno fino a quando non abbiamo preso arancini di riso grandi come le palle da baseball dopo un po’ di Donizetti al Teatro Massimo.

Dopo tre giorni in Sicilia invece di cancellarla dalla nostra ‘bucket list’, l’abbiamo aggiunta: c’è ancora troppo da vedere...e da mangiare.

Feeling like a stuffed pig, and a little tired, I still had to drive three hours to Agrigento. It was almost seven in the evening when we arrived in Agrigento so there weren’t many people in the Valle dei Templi and the temperature was cooler after a hot day. And because the sun was lower in the sky it was better for photos. After a long day of eating and driving we were tired when we arrived at our hotel, Masseria Agnello, in the country near Agrigento. We had enough time to dive into the pool before dinner.

The next day we decided to go directly to Palermo instead of driving along the coast. We had tickets for the opera that evening, and the next morning we had to take a plane to Munich so we wanted at least a little time to see Palermo. Since our new route would have been on the highway instead of along the coast, I thought that the scenery wouldn’t be very interesting. But I was wrong. The fields, the mountains, and the occasional view of the sea were very beautiful. When we arrived in Palermo we returned the car and went to our hotel downtown.

Palermo is a fascinating city. With only one day to see it we spent the majority of the time walking around trying to absorb as much as possible. The architecture is a marvelous mix of cultures with a strong Moorish influence. But, like always, our constant thought was food. After our big meal the day before, the only thing I wanted was a big, simple plate of pasta. We walked to a street with many restaurants with outdoor seating and full of people. We chose one of them with plastic table cloths and plastic chairs and no customers. And that plate of pasta was one of the most satisfying things I have ever eaten. Or at least until we had rice balls the size of baseballs after a little bit of Donizetti at the Teatro Massimo.

After three days in Sicily, instead of crossing it off our ‘bucket list’, there is still too much to see...and eat.
ABOUT POCHE PAROLE

To advertise on Poche Parole, please call 301-215-7885 or contact events@italianculturalsociety.org.

Rates per month, per 3 months: Business card - 1/8 page: $100; 1/4 page: $150; 1/2 page: $200; Full page: $300

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

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