ONLINE SOCIAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS OVERVIEW

FESTA DI NATALE 2020 - CANTO, LETTERATURA E POESIA To Celebrate Together The Magic Of Christmas
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Sunday, December 20th at 4:00 PM (ET)

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Cari amici,

What a challenging year this has been. Yet these long months of fear and uncertainty have also brought us so much closer together—as individuals, as neighbors, as communities.

This has certainly been the case at ICS. Just days after Covid-19 started sweeping through Northern Italy, our wonderful community mobilized to bring immediate relief to first responders there, raising over $31,000 for the Italian Red Cross of San Donato Milanese, Bergamo Centro and Bergamo Ovest through our “We Stand With Italy” campaign. We are so proud of this truly heartfelt effort that has helped hundreds of Italian frontline workers at a moment of dire crisis while also cementing an incredible bond with the people who were most affected by Italy’s first wave of the pandemic.

For us, community in the time of Covid 19 has also meant acting quickly to ensure that you—our precious members, students and supporters—could still count on top-notch language lessons, socializing opportunities and cultural events despite the difficult circumstances. I know I speak for the entire ICS Board when I say how impressed we all were with our wonderful staff and teachers as they transitioned to an online environment swiftly, seamlessly and with the utmost dedication. Our online classes are now more popular than ever and we are even receiving enrollments from outside the DMV area, which is such a testament to the work of our amazing teachers! Our online events have also grown in popularity, and we are still receiving so much positive feedback about our Virtual Gala 2020—thank you! (Please take a moment to watch the Gala if you haven’t already, the full version is still available on our YouTube channel.)

While we won’t be able to offer our traditional Festa di Natale in person this year, we are thrilled to invite you to a wonderful virtual celebration on Sunday 20th, at 4:00pm ET, featuring a performance by the ICS Chorus of 4-12 years old children conducted by Maestro Felicia Toscano, the Director of the ICS Music school. The Chorus performance is produced by video maker Luca Garbarino, with audio editing by Felicia Toscano and Luigi Picardi. The program will also include a performance by Baritone Joachim Coffin; a presentation of beloved children’s author Gianni Rodari by Prof. Annelise Brody Morani; and a few brief and really sweet recitals by some of our younger ICS students. We hope you will join us for a virtual holiday brindisi!

Thank you all so much for being part of this inspiring community and please consider supporting our mission with an end-of-year donation if you haven’t done so already!

Grazie di cuore e Buone Feste a tutti!

Carola Mamberto
Acting Board President
The Italian Cultural Society
of Washington, D.C.

Poche Parole
December 2020
Vol. XXXVIII
No. 4

Preserving and Promoting Italian Language and Culture

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MADEO PETER GIANNINI, IL BANCHIERE GALANTUOMO

DARIO PENZO ICS INSTRUCTOR

el 1869, una coppia italiana abbandona la Liguria per una nuova meta, gli Stati Uniti d’America; con la speranza di un futuro migliore.

Ed è così che comincia “Il Banchiere Galantuomo, Amadeo Peter Giannini” il nuovo bellissimo libro di Giorgio Alarico Chirva pubblicato da Francesco Brioschi Editore. Chirva, industriale del legno, laureato in architettura, ha presentato il suo libro in conversazione con Giuliano Montaldo all’Italian Cultural Society od Washington DC per il nostro evento culturale, lo scorso 15 novembre, raccontandoci la biografia di Amadeo Peter Giannini, il personaggio straordinario che ha fondato, tra l’altra innumerevoli cose, la Bank of Italy.

Negli Usa, la coppia si trasferisce a San Jose e il giovane Amadeo cresce in una famiglia felice ed intraprendente, che ha voglia di migliorare il suo futuro, ma sperimenta i drammi della vita da immigrato e la morte padre da parte di un braccante che lavorava per lui. Quando la madre si risposa, Giannini consiglia la madre e il patrigno. Ha l’intuizione, ad esempio, che la frutta va raccolta acerba, per poi maturare durante il trasporto e la consegna: questa decisione cambierà le prospettive di guadagno della famiglia.

Sposa Clorinda Cuneo, figlia anche lei di emigrati. Il suocero, Joseph, si era arricchito fondando una banca, la Columbus Saving & Loan Bank. Alla sua morte indica come successore Amadeo che ha l’ideale di una banca etica e popolare, non gradita agli altri azionisti; si dimetterà dopo poco tempo. Giannini aveva capito che se la vita ti pone davanti delle difficoltà, bisogna rialzarsi e non soccombere. Con spirito e determinazione nel 1904 fonda la Bank of Italy, la prima banca popolare con capitale suddiviso tra molti azionisti. Amadeo darà dei finanziamenti a tutti coloro che dimostrano di voler lavorare, anche privi di ogni garanzia, e fra i beneficiari principali ci sono proprio gli immigrati italiani.

Nel 1906 un terremoto devastante distrugge San Francisco e tutta la zona della baia. Tutto è a pezzi, della città sono rimasti solo cumuli di macerie. Giannini raccoglie dalla cassaforte della banca fondi e lingotti e riprende subito il suo lavoro sul molo del porto: presta soldi a chi gli domanda di voler andare avanti, lavorare. La Bank of Italy sarà fondamentale nella ricostruzione di San Francisco.

Amadeo Giannini non dimostrerà di avere a cuore solo gli immigrati, ma sarà anche al fianco delle donne, delle suffragettiste americane nella loro battaglia per il diritto di voto. Finanzierà numerose ricerche mediche e scientifiche, e darà fondi ad artisti e registi: Senza Giannini non avremmo capolavori come Il muro di Chaplin, Biancaneve e i sette nani, per l’emergente Walt Disney.

Sosterrà la costruzione del Golden Gate e sarà un grande finanziatore del “New Deal” di F.D. Roosevelt e in seguito il piano Marshall’ con circa 400 milioni di dollari: quasi tutta la somma sarà destinata all’Italia.

Amadeo morirà il 3 giugno 1949: Italia ed Europa si stavano già avviando verso una ripresa economica.

A presentare il libro, con Chirva, abbiamo avuto l’onore di essere in collegamento con l’attore e regista Giuliano Montaldo, famoso per aver diretto molti film, tra cui Gli Indifferenti, Sacco e Vanzetti, per la miniserie televisiva Marco Polo e molte altre produzioni; Ispiratore di registi come Nanni Moretti e di attori di alto calibro, ha ricevuto numerosi David di Donatello e più di un Nastro d’Argento.

Il libro è disponibile qui. Potere rivedere l’evento sul canale YouTube dell’ICS.
In 1869, an Italian couple left Liguria for a new destination, the United States of America, with the hope of a better future. And this is how begins “Il Banchiere Galantuomo, Amadeo Peter Giannini”, the intriguing new book by Giorgio Alanico Chiarva published by Fabio Brioschi Editore. Chiarva, a wood industrialist and graduate in architecture, presented his book in conversation with Giuliano Montaldo at the Italian Cultural Society of Washington D.C. for our recent Cultural Event on November 15. The book tells us the story of Amadeo Peter Giannini, the extraordinary man who founded, among many other things, the Bank of Italy.

In the U.S., the couple moved to San Jose, and the young Amadeo grows up in a happy and enterprising family that wants to improve its future, but experiences the drama of life as an immigrant, all culminating in the death of his father by a farmhand who worked for them. When the mother remarries, Giannini advises her and his stepfather for the family company. He has the intuition, for example, that fruit must be harvested unripe and then ripened during transport and delivery: this decision will change the family’s earnings prospects.

He married Clorinda Cuneo, also a daughter of immigrants. His father-in-law, Joseph, had grown rich by founding a bank, Columbus Saving & Loan Bank. Upon his death, he named Amadeo as his successor who had the idea of an ethical and popular bank, not appreciated by the other shareholders; he resigned after a short time. Giannini understood that if life puts you in front of difficulties you have to get up and not succumb. With a spirit of determination, in 1904 he founded the Bank of Italy, the first people’s bank with capital divided among many shareholders. Amadeo will give funding to all those who show they want to work, even without any guarantee, and among the main beneficiaries are Italian immigrants.

In 1906, a devastating earthquake destroyed San Francisco and the entire Bay Area. Everything is in pieces, only piles of rubble remain of the city. Giannini collects funds and gold ingots from the safe of the bank and immediately resumes his work on the dock of the port; he lends money to those who show him they want to continue working. The Bank of Italy will be instrumental in the reconstruction of San Francisco.

Amadeo Giannini will not only show that he cares about immigrants, but will also be alongside the American suffragettes in their battle for the right to vote. It will finance numerous medical and scientific research projects, and will give funds to artists and directors. Without Giannini we would not have masterpieces like Chaplin’s The Kid, and Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, due to the emergence of Walt Disney.

He supported the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge and was a major financier of the New Deal of F.D. Roosevelt, and later gave around 400 million dollars to the Marshall Plan with almost all of that sum destined for Italy. Amadeo died on June 3, 1949 as Italy and Europe were already heading towards an economic recovery.

With Chiarva, to present the book, we had the honor of being in conversation with the actor and director Giuliano Montaldo, famous for having directed many films, including Gli Indifferenti, Sacco and Vanzetti, for the television miniseries Marco Polo; Inspiring directors such as Nanni Moretti and high-caliber actors, he has received many David di Donatello and more than a Nastro d’argento.

The book is available here. If you missed the event and want to see it again, you can go to our YouTube page.
FESTA DI NATALE, ICS CHRISTMAS PARTY- DEC. 20TH
RSVP & TICKETS HERE

The Italian Cultural Society of Washington D.C.
cordially invites you to

Festa di Natale

Sunday December 20th
at 4:00 pm (ET) on Zoom

Canto, Letteratura e Poesia
to celebrate together the magic of Christmas.

Register on Eventbrite
and participate in the ICS Christmas Raffle
LA BELLEZZA SALVERÀ IL MONDO, SCRIVEVA FÉDOR DOSTOEVSKIJ

GIOVANNA GALLETTA, ICS ISTRUCTOR

Il Natale è quella festa che innonda gli animi di gioia, di aspettative, di amore e di positività.

In un periodo così difficile come quello che stiamo attraversando, il Natale, di sicuro, è una di quelle feste che ci porta la luce di cui abbiamo bisogno.

Sicuramente, almeno una volta, ognuno di noi avrà spento tutte le luci di casa per restare nell’atmosfera natalizia delle lucette dell’albero e del presepe, per raccogliere quell’energia positiva che solo la riflessione e la pace possono dare.

Anche quest’anno, che ha messo a dura prova lo spirito positivo dell’intera umanità, L’ICS ha deciso di non spegnerlo. Il Natale e le sue tradizioni non potranno mancare e gli sguardi che viaggiano attraverso lo schermo renderanno questa festa di Natale ICS indimenticabile. Come un film che guardiamo durante le vacanze, ma con la possibilità di partecipare attivamente.

Una festa organizzata con stile e impegno per regalare ai suoi membri e studenti forti emozioni tipiche del Natale. Ci saranno donazioni e regali ai partecipanti, gli studenti si esibiranno in canti, poesie e filastrocche e i loro sorrisi renderanno vita grazie alle parole pronunciate in una lingua che nel tempo ha portato storia e cultura.

Vi aspettiamo numerosi il 20 Dicembre per festeggiare insieme il Natale di quest’anno che vola via portandoci il meglio.

A presto e grazie,
Giovanna

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PREPARATIVI PER IL NATALE
I BAMBINI DELL ICS SI STANNO PREPARANDO PER LA FESTA DEL 20 DICEMBRE
REPORT OF THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM
BY FRANCESCA CASAZZA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Winter schedule is [online] and registration will open officially on January 2nd, although, it will be possible to register for some courses starting on December 22nd.

Our new website will be completed in a few days and we are very excited about it. Hopefully registration for the Winter Term will be smooth and easy.

New beginners classes will start both in the evening, in the morning and on Saturday. A few intermediate and advanced level courses will follow the regular curriculum, and others will focus on different aspects of culture: from cinema, with Silvana De Luca, to current events with Journalist Nicoletta Nencioli, from music (including guitar classes) with Felicia Toscano, to reading: you can read “La casa in collina”, di Cesare Pavese and “Resto qui,” di Marco Balzano; “Canne al vento”, di Grazia Deledda; “La testa degli Italiani,” o “Neoitaliani”, two books from the author Beppe Severgnini, who was one of our guests at the recent Gala, (and will be with us again on January 31st – stay tuned!)

Camilla Presti will bring you to a virtual tour of the Via Francigena, Dario Penzo in Veneto and to the antica Roma; Cristiana Fabiani through different regions, starting from Molise. You will have the possibility to focus on pronunciation with the new lunch time course “La musica dell’italiano”, with Antonella Pellegrino. Sofia Caligiuri offers a new conversation course, “I ritratti attraverso i secoli” (B2-C2). Professor Annelise Brody Morani will have you appreciate the literature of Romanticism and will guide you to Dante’s world. These last courses are at a level C1-C2, for the most ambitious students, or for native Italians who desire to review our beautiful literature. Finally, I invite you to try our yoga classes, to keep your body as trained and young as your mind. Prof. Morani will also start a beginners Latin course, while Prof. De Luca will continue with the advanced level, and Latin for high school Italian students, now at an intermediate level.

For the children, Maestra Fiorenza is planning our next Themed workshop on January 19th for 5 weeks, “Impariamo ascoltando” for the youngest children, and “Impariamo leggendo” from January 21st for 5 weeks. Both are focused on the writer Gianni Rodari, in occasion of the centenary of his birth.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Festa di Natale on December 20th at 4:00pm. We put together a short but sweet program that hopefully will keep us close to each other, with a smile, at the end of this challenging year. Your support and appreciation for our courses and events online is very valuable to us. Please stay healthy and keep enjoying Italian culture from your home this Winter.

Affettuosì auguri di Buone Feste,

Francesca Casazza
Executive Director
PAROLE PER IL 2021 - WORDS FOR 2021
BY ANTONELLA SALVATORE PELLEGRINO, TRANSLATION BY SALVATORE ROMANO

Ecco dal Corriere della Sera del 3 dicembre alcune parole, proposte da giornalisti e scrittori che collaborano con questo quotidiano, per affrontare il 2021 con ottimismo, ma anche consapevolezza. Ne ho selezionate 10 per voi lettori di Poche Parole e ne ho aggiunta una, offerta da me. 
Sono 11, ne manca una per completare l’anno: vi invito a scrivermi la vostra parola per il 2021, la pubblicheremo nel prossimo numero di Poche Parole: antonella.salvatore129@gmail.com

1. **Azzurro**, “come il cielo quando fa bel tempo, come la normalità ritrovata”, Beppe Sev-ergnini
2. **Rispetto** “per gli altri, che è sempre anche rispetto per se stessi”, Aldo Cazzullo
3. **Immaginazione**, “il motore più potente del corpo”, Dacia Maraini
4. **Discernimento**, “per decidere da che parte andare”, Susanna Tamaro
5. **Immunità**, “assomiglia alla pace. Che arrivi con un vaccino al più presto”, Paolo Giordano
6. **Viaggi**, “se li ami, restare blindati in casa è stato un tormento”, Gian Antonio Stella
7. **Confine**, “traccia una ripartenza”, Barbara Stefanelli
8. **Onde**, “come le pandemie”, Lucrezia Reichlin
9. **Invisibili**, “come i virus”, Silvia Avallone
10. **Incertezza**, “nel 2020 ha fatto raddoppiare il risparmio delle famiglie” (in Italia), Francesco Giavazzi

Here are some words from the Corriere della Sera of December 3, proposed by journalists and writers who collaborate with this newspaper, to face 2021 with optimism, but also awareness. I have selected 10 for you readers of Poche Parole and I added one, offered by me. There are 11 of them, one is missing to complete the year. I invite you to write me your word for 2021, we will publish it in the next issue of Poche Parole: antonella.salvatore129@gmail.com

1. **Blue**, “like the sky when the weather is good, like the newfound normality,” Beppe Severgnini
2. **Respect** “for others, which is always also respect for oneself,” Aldo Cazzullo
3. **Imagination**, “the most powerful engine of the body,” Dacia Maraini
4. **Discernment**, “to decide which way to go,” Susanna Tamaro
5. **Immunity**, “resembles peace. That you arrive with a vaccine as soon as possible,” Paolo Giordano
6. **Travel**, “if you love them, staying armored at home was a torment,” Gian Antonio Stella
7. **Confine**, “trace a restart,” Barbara Stefanelli
8. **Waves**, “like pandemics,” Lucrezia Reichlin
9. **Invisible**, “like viruses,” Silvia Avallone
10. **Uncertainty**, “in 2020 it doubled household savings” (in Italy), Francesco Giavazzi
11. **Breathe deeply**, a wish for newfound freedom, Antonella Salvatore.
GIANNI RODARI – 100 ANNI DALLA NASCITA DEL FAVOLIERE ITALIANO
BY NICOLETTA NENCIOI, TRANSLATION BY SALVATORE ROMANO

E’ stato il grande favoliere italiano contemporaneo. Lo scrittore per i bambini, che finiva per insegnare agli adulti l’arte della fantasia. Gianni Rodari avrebbe avuto 100 anni: in questo 2020 della grande pandemia, a 40 anni dalla sua morte, e’ stato celebrato con tantissime iniziative. In Italia e all’estero. Eventi giocoforza virtuali, ma che hanno riportato alla ribalta quella sua immaginazione, quelle fiabe assurde e un po’ stralunate che fan-no bene ai più piccoli, proprio oggi rinchiusi nelle case a causa del covid.

Morto a soli 60 anni nel 1980, nato sul lago d’Orta, Rodari con i suoi libri ha spalancato i cancelli del sogno e della meraviglia. Ha recuperato la tradizione favolistica e l’ha resa moderna, in sintonia con la pedagogia e la psicologia infantile. Ma con una carica ‘rivoluzionaria’ tutta sua.

Non tutti lo sanno ma Rodari è stato anche partigiano, insegnante elementare, giornalista, poeta: ha cominciato a pubblicare racconti per ragazzi a partire dagli anni Cinquanta, ottenendo subito un enorme successo. Tanto da vincere, primo e unico autore italiano, il prestigioso premio letterario Hans Christian Andersen, considerato il “Piccolo Premio Nobel” della narrativa per l’infanzia.

Tanti i volumi di filastrocche e fiabe di questo autore rilasciati e ripubblicati in Italia quest’anno: tra i primi la amatissima “Grammatica della fantasia: introduzione all’arte di inventare storie”’, pubblicata la prima volta nel 1973 da Einaudi. Una sorta di manifesto teorico sui meccanismi che fanno da substrato all’arte di inventare storie. Usando la magia delle parole. Rodari parlava infatti di “tutti gli usi della parola a tutti, non perché tutti siano artisti, ma perché nessuno sia schiavo”.

E ancora una sua citazione famosa sull’importanza del fantastico: “La fiaba è pronta per darci una mano a immaginare il futuro che altri vorrebbero semplicemente farci subire”.

Ecco allora che in questo anno di ‘lockdown’, volumi riediti come “le Favole al telefono”, hanno aiutato qualche nonno a raccontare le fiabe ai nipoti lontani. Magari al cellulare o su zoom. Forse gli spunti della “Grammatica della fantasia” hanno divertito i più piccoli, come nel gioco facile, del “Che cosa accadrebbe se...”. Con cui si presenta un’ipotesi fantasiosa e si chiede al bimbo di andare avanti con il racconto. Un esempio: “Cosa accadrebbe se mi svegliassi scarafaggi..”


Ma a spiegare la poetica ed il messaggio di Rodari e’ inoltre, proprio alla Festa di Natale dell’Ics, la professoressa Annelise Morani.
He was the great contemporary Italian fairy-tale writer. The writer for children, who ended up teaching adults the art of fantasy. Gianni Rodari would have been 100 years old in this 2020, the year of the great pandemic. He was celebrated in Italy and abroad with many initiatives now 40 years after his death at 60 years old. Virtual events inevitably, but which have brought to the forefront that imagination of his, those absurd and slightly dazed fairy tales that are good for the little ones, today locked up in homes because of the COVID-19.

Rodari was born on Lake Orta and with his books he opened the gates of dreams and wonder. He recovered the fairy tale tradition and made it modern in harmony with pedagogy and child psychology, with a “revolutionary” charge of its own.

Not everyone knows it but Rodari was also a partisan, elementary teacher, journalist, and poet. He began publishing short stories for children in the 1950s, immediately achieving enormous success. So much so that he was the first and only Italian author to win the prestigious Hans Christian Andersen literary prize, considered the “Little Nobel Prize” of children’s fiction.

Many volumes of nursery rhymes and fairy tales by this author were relaunched and republished in Italy this year. Among the first fairy tale republished was the beloved “Grammar of fantasy: introduction to the art of inventing stories,” which was first published in 1973 by Einaudi. This was a theoretical manifesto on the mechanisms underlying the art of inventing stories, using the magic of words. Rodari spoke of “all uses of the word to everyone, not because everyone is an artist, but because no one is a slave.” Another famous quote from Rodari on the importance of the fantastic is: “The fairy tale is ready to help us imagine the future that others would simply like us to suffer.”

Here in this year of “lockdown,” volumes reissued as “Tales on the phone,” have helped some grandfathers to tell fairy tales to distant grandchildren, maybe on the phone or on Zoom. Perhaps the ideas of the “Grammar of fantasy” have amused the little ones, as in the easy game of “What would happen if ....” with which an imaginative hypothesis is presented and the child is asked to go on with the story. An example is: “What would happen if I woke up cockroach ....”

Among his best-known works, we recall “Nursery rhymes in heaven and on earth,” “The book of errors,” “The story of Cipollino,” “Giovannino Perdigiorno’s travels,” etc. Furthermore, to explain Rodari’s poetics and message right at the ICS Christmas Party will be Professor Annelise Morani.
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