

Welcome Back Lunch: Introducing Sicily and its peoples

Sunday, November 13, 2011

Chairperson: Jean DiPierro

What does it mean to be a Sicilian? Can anyone claim to be a pure blooded Sicilian? Join us as we explore the evolution of this melting pot of civilizations and some of the marvelous cultures that grew there. Is a Sicilian dark and swarthy, blond and blue eyed, redheaded, or all of these? Walk through the turbulent history of this extraordinary island with Ron Diorio.

Ron Diorio is a retired business executive and dedicated Italophile. He is a founding Board member of ICS and served as Programming Chairman. Ron also participated in the creation of both Hodges University's Center for Lifelong Learning and FGCU's Renaissance Academy.

Then Ken Pedini will present the tale of one of these people, the Normans in Sicily. How two penniless brothers, Robert Guiscard and Roger Hauteville set out for Italy as freebooters, cattle rustlers and mercenaries. How they and their sons battled Popes, Emperors and Emirs to eventually rule all of Southern Italy and Sicily. The Norman kingdom they founded lasted only 64 years, but it established the political boundaries of the region for the next 700 years. Their legacy of architecture and art is breathtaking.

Ken Pedini graduated Trinity College, Hartford with an A.B. in Philosophy. He is a M.D. and practiced Radiology for 30 years north of Boston. He is a Board member of The Bach Ensemble and the I.C.S. where he chairs the program committee.

Plantation Club at The Dunes
Price: \$20

Doors open 10:30;
Presentation 11:00 followed by lunch