

Action Packed Season Ahead!

October is Art Month



"The Goddaughter"
 by Giovanni Fattori, 1889



"The Baron in the Trees"
 by Yan Nascimbene

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Lunch/Discussion Program Sunday, October 14 at the Stonebridge Country Club:

As part of our very popular *Serie Culturale*, we begin this year's program with a discussion of 19th century Italian artists. In preparation for a tour of the Gilgore Museum of Naples at a later date, Art Director Edith Coleman will have a power point presentation of the artwork exhibited there. This opportunity should not be missed as the Gilgore's unique collection of 19th century Italian art is the most extensive in the world. Because this period was dominated by the French impressionists, the magnificent contributions by the Italians of that era have received less recognition in the art world. An optional lunch will precede the program and is priced at **\$12** to **\$15**. It will be served from 11:30AM to 1:00PM in the Stonebridge Country Club dining room. The discussion will begin promptly at 1:00PM in the Magnolia Room. There is no prepayment for lunch but reservations are necessary for the free discussion.

Joint Luncheon Program with Naples Art Association Monday, October 22 Featuring Artist Yan Nascimbene:

ICS and NAA are teaming to offer our joint memberships an art presentation by an Italian artist on Monday, October 22 in celebration of Italian Heritage Month. The event will be held at The von Liebig Art Center. A buffet lunch provided by an Italian restaurant will precede a discussion of the art works on display.

Attendance is free to our members and is offered on a first come, first served basis. The von Liebig gallery holds a limited number of guests so we have arranged for up to 50 of our members to enter the gallery starting at 11:15 AM. At this time we will have a chance to meet and speak with the artist personally. Although we cannot take reservations, please let us know if you plan to attend by calling the ICS reservation hotline.

The visiting artist will be **Yan Nascimbene** whose work is currently in exhibition at the von Liebig. Half French, half Italian, Yan shared his childhood between these two countries. He later studied at the School of Visual Arts in New York and the

October, November, December 2007

The President's Perspective

Cari Amici,

Summer is over and I hope you are looking forward to our tenth season of activities of the Italian Cultural Society. I am very excited about our programs this year which will range from the contemporary cultural activities of Italian life back to the Renaissance/Baroque time and forward to current topics in politics and family life in modern Italy. In keeping with the latter theme we will have a presentation by the consul general of Miami entitled *Italy Today*. This year we will be presenting some new activities such as the Volunteer/New Members' Reception on November 4, 2007 at the Norris Center; a joint luncheon program with the Naples Art Association; a seminar series on Italian literature and "per i nostri amici che parlano Italiano una *Chiacchierata Italiana*." Last but not least will be our tenth anniversary celebration at the Club At Pelican Bay on April 6, 2008. Throughout the summer months your Board of Directors has been working to complete many details of these programs such as venue, speakers, artists, musicians, food, wine, and many other items in order to make our programs exciting and meaningful for you. There was a special summer edition of *amici* to make sure you were kept informed and up to date so you could make your plans for the coming season.

Another activity of the Board has been to think about the future of the Society. The following represents four major themes from our deliberations which form the basis of our Mission Statement for our vision of the future of ICS.

- Over the years the Society remained true to its Mission and focused on providing to its members and the community of Southwest Florida, the best quality programs, speakers, performers and events that allowed the participants to experience the pillars of Italian Culture.

- This Society has become a beacon of light illuminating the cultural life of Italians. The programs and events it sponsors showcase the various aspects of Italian culture from its historical origins in language, visual arts and performing arts to literature, entertainment, food and wine to Italian life today and its impact on other cultures.

- Members of the Society are leaders in the community and are leading the way for other

Societies across the U.S.A. to present programs that explore, educate and experience the real Italian Culture.

- The growth and impact of this Society is bigger than the actual membership even though its numbers have grown to over 1000 nationally. It has retained an element of intimacy and professionalism in a way that its' members feel they are an active part of a Society that is truly living, experiencing, sharing and enjoying the Italian way of life. They bring honor to its culture while keeping it alive in today's contemporary Society.

With this issue of *amici* I will be acknowledging some individuals for their service to the Society. I realize in doing this I cannot mention everyone who volunteers for the Society. In fact that is why we are having a reception to thank all volunteers. However, from time to time I would like to acknowledge certain individuals for their service. On behalf of our membership I want to express our gratitude to Joyce LaCatta for organizing a successful summer luncheon program; to Joanne Berenato who continues to work throughout the year behind the scenes taking reservations and collecting the money for the ICS events; and to Liana Buysee who served on the board for eight years and led a fund raising event, *Carnivale*, that raised over \$33,000 for the Italian Cultural Foundation and the Society; to Alessandra Higgs who served the society for eight and half years as a member of the board of directors and President for one year. She was instrumental in leading fund raising events which resulted in more than \$50,000 being contributed to the treasury of the Italian Cultural Foundation and the Italian Cultural Society. This money has been used to underwrite charitable events such as the support of Opera Naples and the Italian Language program in the school system of Naples. Alessandra resigned from the board in April of 2007.

To all our volunteers: On behalf of the Society our sincere gratitude for your efforts, enthusiasm and contributions.

I look forward to seeing you at our events; If you have questions or ideas that can add value to our Society please do not hesitate to call me.

Cordiali saluti,

Adam D. Crescenzi, President ICS

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University of California at Davis. In 1986 Nascimbene started a collaboration with Gallimard Publishers of France and drew over 200 book covers for them. In 1988 he received the Graphic Award at the Bologna International Book Fair. Yan's first book as author and publisher (a memoir of his life as a child in France and Italy) won him the 1992 Graphic Award at the Bologna International Fair. He won this award a third time and also won the Illustrator's Silver Medal twice. His illustrations have appeared worldwide in

numerous publications such as Time, Newsweek, Scientific American and Atlantic Monthly to mention only a few. Yan has over 50 books to his credit, translated in eight languages. He has illustrated over 300 book covers for numerous publishers in the United States, France, Italy and Japan.

A highlight of his long career was his acclaimed illustration of three books by Italo Calvino - "Aventures" and "Palomar" in 2001 and 2003 respectively and recently "The Baron in the Trees."

Brand New Events for November

Welcome New Members! Thank You Volunteers! Sunday, November 4

A New Member and Volunteer Appreciation Coffee will be held on Sunday, November 4 from 2:30PM to 4:30PM at the Norris Center in Cambier Park in downtown Naples. Invitations will be mailed by September 15. When you receive your invitation, please RSVP by October 20. Board members will be present to meet our new members and to honor our ICS volunteers at this event. Coffee and Italian desserts will be served. Any questions may be addressed to Chairman Tony Abbate, 254-9730.

I Bacchi Sample Wines of Italy, Wednesday, November 14



I Bacchi, our wine tasting group, has scheduled three regional tastings this coming season in the private upstairs room at the Haskell Wine Store on Pine Ridge Road. Wine lovers will delight in the sampling of carefully selected wines from a specific region of Italy which will be announced in advance. Our discussion will focus on the chosen region and its food and wines. A complement of appropriate appetizers will round out the pleasure of the tastings.

Please note the dates for the complete schedule of wine tastings:

Wednesday, November 14, Thursday, January 24, Saturday, March 15

All tastings will start at 5:30 PM. Attendance will be limited so please reserve as early as possible. Price is \$20 per person and the tasting wines may be purchased at special prices.

Faciamo Una Chiacchierata, Domenica, 18 Novembre

*A*s promised in our last *amici*, our Italian speaking members are invited to come together and enjoy an afternoon of conversation in the mother tongue. We will begin the afternoon by asking all attendees to discuss their favorite places to visit in Italy. Then we will let the conversation take its course as our newly polished Italian begins to flow freely and without hesitation. Listening only is allowed. If you find this to be fun we will schedule more chiacchierate during the season based on the desires of the group. Our leaders will be Elsa Cantoni and Luisa Basile.

Guests are welcome. Refreshments will be served. We will meet on Sunday, November 18, 3 PM at the St. Raphael in Pelican Bay, 7117 Pelican Bay Blvd. There is no cost for this gathering. The only requirement is that we spruce up our Italian for the event. Please reserve in the usual manner.

Holiday Celebrations for December



Fun and Laughter with *Così fan tutte*

Miami Opera, Saturday, December 8

Get ready for some good laughs with this opera program on Saturday, December 8. Make your reservations as soon as possible since there are just 50 tickets available through ICS and they are going fast. We will travel to Miami by bus to see

"*Così fan tutte*". After being treated to this comedic opera performance, we will have dinner at Cacao Restaurant in Coral Gables, which is a brand new venue for us to enjoy. The cost of the outing is **\$128** (includes tipping), not \$121 as was reported in the last issue of *amici*. This price includes bus, dinner and the opera. All prior reservations have been adjusted. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused you.

The menu at Curacao Restaurant will include a choice of salad: mesclun salad with goat cheese, almonds and basil vinaigrette, corvine ceviche with guacamole and tortilla chips or chicken causa with mashed yellow & blue potato and coulis of Kalamata olives; a choice of entree: mahi-mahi with cilantro and corn sauce, pan seared chicken breast with huanacaina sauce or caramelized beef "Asado"; a choice of tropical fruit sorbet or milk chocolate mousse for dessert. Coffee, tea and soda is included.

The bus will leave from Crossroads Shopping Center at 2:00PM sharp. Some libation and a snack will be provided on the bus!

First heard in Vienna in 1790, *Così fan tutte* was the third collaboration (after *Figaro* and *Don Giovanni*) between Mozart and his librettist Da Ponte. In the story, two army officers, Ferrando and Guglielmo, are engaged to two sisters from Ferrara, Dorabella and Fiordiligi, who are living in a rented house in Naples. These two young men believe their respective fiancées to be utterly faithful and incapable of any inconstancy. Their older friend the philosopher Don Alfonso suggests, however, that women are by nature fickle and unfaithful. Challenged by the two soldiers, Alfonso bets that he will prove himself right within the day. Ferrando and Guglielmo agree to follow all Alfonso's instructions and eagerly look forward to winning the bet. The action takes place over a period of twenty four hours and it contains some of Mozart's best arias. We will hear Justin Moss present his usual analysis of the opera at 7PM.

ICS Wishes You A Merry Christmas! Thursday, December 13

For ICS members and guests, we will celebrate Christmas with a party on Thursday, December 13, at Kensington Country Club, located on Pine Ridge Road east of Airport Road. The festivities will start at 5PM and there will be music, caroling and food to put us in the holiday spirit. A cash bar, which includes Italian wines, will be available for those who want to enhance the quality of their singing as we all join in to welcome the season with Christmas carols. Listeners are also welcome to urge our carolers on to a heightened sense of enthusiasm as their voices ring out in song.

On the gastronomical side you will be tempted to

throw caution to the winds as you indulge your taste buds with a generous buffet of heavy hors' d'oeuvres consisting of assorted pizze, antipasti featuring artichokes, olives, salami, gorgonzola, parmigiano reggiano, auricchio provolone, sopresata, tomatoes, fresh mozzarella and mushrooms served with garlic bread, toasted flat bread and grissini bread sticks. Finish this off with a delectable array of assorted mini cannoli, coffee and tea and your celebration is complete. Rob Meads of the Steinway Piano Gallery will provide background and caroling music for the entertainment and singing. This is a great way to begin or continue your holiday merrymaking. The party will run from 5PM to 8PM and cost **\$38** per person.

Il Cinema Italiano

*I*n response to popular demand, this season will feature several recent award winning films. A powerful and classic Sofia Loren film in February and a surprise presentation in April will round out our offerings. The films will be preceded by a brief introduction and will be followed by an informal discussion of each film for those who are interested in remaining after the viewing.

Showings begin in November and will be held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 PM at the Norris Center. An exception will be in January when our movie will be shown on the 15th which is the second Tuesday. **A voluntary donation of \$4 per person will be greatly appreciated.**

Film Schedule

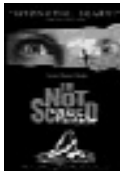
November 6th: *My Mother's Smile (Il sorriso di mia madre)*



Painter and illustrator Ernesto (Sergio Castellitto), a strident atheist, finds his patience tried and his philosophy tested when his opportunistic family attempts to coerce him into false testimony to ensure his murdered mother's sainthood. He fails to see how his mother could possibly be elevated to sainthood. "I hated her....she was stupid and I say that with no contempt" he tells a senior member of the Church. Complicating matters is the fact that his son (Alberto Mondini) has begun to adopt spiritual beliefs. Director Marco Bellochio delivers an incisive look at religious desolation in this provocative film. English Titles (2002).

December 4th : *I'm Not Scared (Non ho paura)*

No one can be trusted and everyone's a suspect when a shocking secret is revealed in this hypnotic suspense thriller from the acclaimed director of the Academy Award winning *Mediterraneo* (Best Foreign Language Film 1991). For 10 year old Michele, the familiar routines of childhood in his idyllic southern Italian village are about to be shattered by his chance discovery of an unspeakable crime! Soon beyond the point of no return, Michele will risk everything to expose the truth...only to learn that those he depends on most may have the most to hide. Hailed by critics everywhere, this award winning story of innocence and evil will have you riveted throughout...culminating in its stunning conclusion. Based on the novel by Niccolò Ammaniti and directed by Gabriele Salvatores. English Titles (2003).



January 15th: *Enchanted (Incantato)* (2003)

February 5th: *Two Women (Due donne)* (1960)

March 4th: *The Escort (La scorta)* (1993)

April 1st: *New World (Nuovo mondo)* (2006)

The last 4 films will be summarized in coming issues of amici. Nuovo mondo is a special new film with which we are closing out the season. It is in the Sicilian dialect with Italian titles! The story of a family's emigration to the US, it begins in Sicily and ends at Ellis Island. Highly rated, it is in European format and will be on loan to us from ODLI, our partners in subsidizing the elementary Italian program at Laurel Oak.

Notice: The board has voted to accept a limited number of paid small ads from organizations that provide a special service and/or are benefactors to the Society. Please email filraia@yahoo.com or phone 594-2851 if you would like to take advantage of this opportunity.

COMPLETE CALENDAR of EVENTS 2007, 2008

October All details this issue.

Sun. Oct. 14: Lunch/Discussion at Stonebridge CC. Art Director Edith Coleman, 19th Century Art with power point presentation of the Gilgore collection, 11:30AM.

Mon. Oct. 22: Joint luncheon program with Naples Art Association, The von Leibig Center, with guest artist Yan Nascimbene, 11:15AM.

November All details this issue.

Sun. Nov. 4: New Member/Volunteer Appreciation Reception, Norris Center. 2:30PM-4:30PM

Tues. Nov. 6: Italian Film, 7:00PM, Norris Center, "My Mother's Smile."

Wed. Nov. 14: Wine Tasting at Haskell's. 5:30PM.

December All details this issue.

Tues. Dec. 4: Italian Film, 7:00PM, Norris Center, "Io non ho paura" (I'm not Afraid).

Sat. Dec. 8: "Cosi fan tutte". Miami Opera, followed by dinner at Cacao Restaurant in Coral Gables.

Thur. Dec. 13: Christmas Party at Kensington C.C. 5PM.

January All details next issue.

Sun. Jan. 13: ICS sponsors buffet (5PM) followed by its showing of a filmed performance of Donizetti's opera *L'elisir d'amor* (with Pavorotti) at the NIAC clubhouse at 7PM.

Tues. Jan. 15: Luncheon at Vineyards Country Club at Noon. Consul General of Italy, Marco Rocca will speak on *Italy Today*.

Mon. Jan 21: At the Sugden, the Classic Chamber Concerts company presents a special Italian program, VIVA ITALIA, to inaugurate the Tenth Anniversary celebration of the founding of our Society. Steffanie Pearce will be guest soloist.

Thur. Jan 24: Wine Tasting at Haskell's. 5PM.

Sun. Jan. 27: Brunch at Stonebridge followed by presentation on the Puglia region by ICS members Joe Delfino and Ron Diorio. This will be followed by a dinner featuring the food and wine of Puglia on Jan. 31.

Thur. Jan. 31: General Meeting and regional dinner featuring the cuisine of Puglia. Please call Ron Diorio, 239-594-0260, if you have any knowledge about the history and culture of Puglia.

February All details next issue.

Tue. Feb. 5: Italian film, Norris Center, 7PM. "Two Women" (Due donne) 1960.

Sun. Feb. 10: Brunch at Stonebridge followed by readings from Italian literature introducing our Prose and Poetry seminar.

Tue. Feb. 12: Opening of 3 day seminar on Manzoni's novel "I Promessi Sposi" led by Anna Bowe, in English and Italian, at the Steinway Gallery. Other two dates are Feb. 19 and 26.

Wed. Feb. 20: Luncheon and lecture by Dr. Stefano Albertini of LaCasa Italiana, NYU. Subject will be two giants of the Renaissance, Nicolò Machiavelli and Girolamo Savonarola.

March All details later issue.

Sun. Mar. 2: Brunch at Stonebridge followed by an exciting history of Italian music presented by guest speaker and music expert, Dr. Marian Dolan.

Tues. Mar. 4: Italian film, 7PM, Norris Center, "The Escort" (*La scorta*) 1993.

Thur. Mar. 6: Organ recital by Massimo Nosetti, Honorary Cathedral organist of Torino.

Wed. Mar. 12: Luncheon and guest speaker to be announced.

Sat. Mar. 15: Wine tasting at Haskell's. 5PM.

Sun. Mar. 16: Arrangements have been made for 50 tickets for a matinee performance of Puccini's *La rondine* at the Sarasota Opera House. Dinner at a Sarasota restaurant will follow. Travel will be by bus.

Thur. Mar. 26: ICS Annual Meeting.

April All details in later issue.

Tue. Apr. 1: Italian film, Norris Center, 7PM. "New World" (Nuovo mondo) 2006.

Sun. Apr. 6: **Gala 10 Year Anniversary Celebration, The Club at Pelican Bay.**

Sun. Apr. 20: Brunch at Stonebridge followed by discussion to be announced.

Sun. Apr. 27: Opera planned.

Italian Language Program At Laurel Oak Gets a Boost from ICS

Our participation in the successful Laurel Oak elementary Italian language program is continuing for this fifth year. The program will be more intense this year and focus more on those students capable of moving into a middle school Italian program. There is no question of the program's success to date. It has successfully exposed youngsters to the language and to our culture, with the parents very excited about the results and looking to a continuum at the middle school. The latter is not in effect yet, but we are devoting energy to getting one instituted at Oak Ridge Middle School in 2009.

The cost of subsidizing the Laurel Oak program increased to \$56,000 this year. This was due to the opening of another elementary school that drew away about 50% of the Laurel Oak enrollment, which thereby drew away district funding for Laurel Oak. After negotiation with the School District the subsidization cost was established at \$38,000 to be equally shared by ODLL, ICS/ICF and the School District in the amount to \$12,667 each.

It is clear that costs of such programs are escalating in many school districts but this should not be a reason to drop our support for the Italian language for the next generation of children. First, we plan to exert additional pressure on the school authorities to take more financial responsibility or full ownership of the program. Second, the Society will embark upon a substantial fund raising event. Third, the Society and Foundation will seek out major contributors/grantors who believe in our mission and who would have the benefit of a Federal Tax exemption for their generosity. We have already initiated a request for a \$2000 grant from NIAF (National Italian American Foundation in Washington, D.C.

The Italian Cultural Foundation also subsidizes special events costs of the Society such as professional fees, transportation, lodging and receptions that are part of the event. The philosophy of the Society from its inception has been to subsidize high quality cultural events to bring them into the financial reach of all members. Donations to the Italian Cultural Foundation will be appreciated from any and all members and non-members for any amount, large or small. ICS Director Joseph D'Annunzio has already made a donation and is investigating a possible fund raising event.

We thank you all deeply for your generosity.

Adam Crescenzi, President Italian Cultural Society

Joe Delfino, President Italian Cultural Foundati

Reservations Procedure

24/7 Reservation Line: 513-4123. Clearly state your full name, phone number, number and full names of your guests and name of the event you are reserving. Give menu choices and seating preferences when requested by amici. Please make your payments for all events as early as possible and no later than five days prior to the event. Newsletter articles will indicate if there is a deductible portion of the ticket. If so, payments are to be made to the Italian Cultural Foundation, **ICF**, and you will receive a tax deduction summary, if requested, before the end of the tax year. Otherwise payments are to be made to **ICS** as usual. Kindly be prepared to pay your annual dues at the event you are attending if you have not already done so. Please note payments can now be made with credit cards over the phone **(513-4123)**. If you are paying by check, **please send separate checks for each event you are reserving.** Checks are mailed to:

Italian Cultural Society

PMB 104, 6017 Pine Ridge Road Naples, FL 34119-3956

Cancellation Policy: Restaurants offer refunds only up to 48 hours before the event.

Membership Information

You are reminded that in order to be included in the ICS Directory, dues must be paid by November 1 of each new season. In an effort to more equitably allocate operational costs, the Board has voted to raise dues for couples from \$50 to \$60 for the 2007/2008 season. Single membership dues remain at \$35. Payments may be submitted at any time but must be received no later than November 1, 2007. Per our usual policy, dues paid after April 1, 2007 will be valid through October 31, 2008 and will be \$60 for couples. Name tags will be mailed to all new members and it is requested that you wear them to all events. If you need to replace your name tag or have any question regarding membership, please contact Vice President and Membership Chairman Anthony Abbate, 254-9730. For your convenience new blue membership registration forms will now be available at all of our events.

Italian Cultural Society

of Naples, Florida, Inc.

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Italian Cultural Society Officers

President: Adam Crescenzi
First Vice President: Anthony Abbate
Second Vice President: Fred Luconi
Secretary: Eileen Laizzo
Treasurer: Rose Parapiglia

Directors

Linda Cardillo, resigned as of July, 2007
Edith CardIELLO Coleman
Joseph D'Annunzio
Ron Diorio
Eileen laizzo
Tony Izzo
Dr. Charles Lomanto, resigned as of August, 2007
Filomena Raia

President Emeritus: Joseph Delfino

Recording Secretary/Librarian: Delores Fiano