

amici

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storia cultura amicizia
ICS

HAPPY 10th ANNIVERSARY ICS 1998-2008



"L'elisir d'amour"
Pavarotti

What's New for Winter?

Sunday, January 13, ICS Sponsors Opera

ICS will sponsor the showing of a filmed performance of Donizetti's opera, *L'elisir d'amor*, which will be hosted by NIAC at their clubhouse on Airport Road on Sunday, January 13 at 7PM. The film is made available to us from the private collection of Siria and Cesare Volpato, both members of ICS and NIAC. Siria will introduce the opera.

The showing will be preceded by a buffet dinner at 5:30 PM. The menu includes a "Creative Salad" at table, Baked Ziti, Oregano Encrusted Salmon, Chicken Cacciatore, a Vegetable, Dessert and Coffee or Tea. You may enhance the pleasure of your meal with the addition of cocktails, wine or soda from the cash bar. A perfect evening of food and entertainment!

The film is of a 1992 performance at the Metropolitan Opera House with Conductor James Levine. The Performers are Kathleen Battle, Luciano Pavarotti, Juan Pons, Enzo Dara and Karlis Uecker.

It is Spring, the season of love, in the Italian countryside. The young Nemorino is desperately trying to win the love of the beautiful and wealthy Adina with the help of a mysterious elixir provided by the shady Doctor

Dulcamara. Though the elixir turns out to be nothing more than red wine of a dubious vintage, there is no doubt that you will enjoy the true appeal of Donizetti's charming music and amusing story.

This ICS event is open to the public and we particularly welcome NIAC members to share the evening with us. The club has the very latest in projection systems which is equivalent to that of the Norris Center. Doors open at 4:30PM. The buffet price is \$21 per person. ICS reservations should be made through our voice mail in the usual manner.

Thursday, January 17, ICS Welcomes Consul General Marco Rocca

At a noon luncheon at The Vineyards Country Club on January 17, we will be honored by the presence of the new Consul General of Italy - Miami, Marco Rocca and his gracious wife Aida Baffigi. Consul General Rocca has been pleased with the Society's many accomplishments in providing Italian cultural and educational programs over the years.

He is looking forward to meeting and speaking to our members so we urge you all to attend. His topic will be *Italy*

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President's Perspective Winter 2007/8

Cari Amici,

As you read this winter issue of amici, I want to express my warmest wishes to you for a happy, healthy and Merry Christmas season. With the Thanksgiving holiday just passed, we had our time to be thankful for all our blessings and especially for the good life we share in Naples as members and friends of ICS. Our October and November programs were well attended, especially the New Member Welcome and Volunteer Thank You event. On behalf of the Board of Directors I want to thank those of you who signed up to be volunteers, both new and current, for our events. There is a continuous need for volunteers. If you were unable to attend the event and would like to volunteer we would still like to hear from you. Please contact Tony Abbate at 254-9730.

As I wrote in the last amici, our society has an opportunity to be a leader in the Collier County community by offering high quality and exciting programs that give people a way to explore, educate and experience real Italian Culture. To accomplish this goal will require the leadership and contributions of many of us in the Society. As we grow in membership, now over 380 households and 620 members, many of you have spoken to me about your need to have the Society be like a community where everyone knows each other and the members feel they are an active part of a Society that is truly living, experiencing, sharing and enjoying the Italian way of life. With growth our ability to retain an element of intimacy and collegiality within the membership will be a challenge.

It will be extremely important that our communication and the information about our

plans, programs, events, be accurate, current and readily available. The board has an agenda item to evaluate our communications, the website, and use of email, amici, mailings, and the data base and telephone system to determine how we can effectively improve communications with our members. At the same time, we are taking a new look at our programs from a conceptual point of view. We will be discussing how to involve more people in our programs, venues, the use of informal gatherings of special interest groups such as food and wine, topical conversation groups, travel, and educational programs in the visual arts, performing arts, community service and charitable giving. These are just a few of the areas to be evaluated to determine how we can accomplish the goals of the society and meet the diverse needs of the membership.

You will notice in this issue that we are planning the General Meeting for an evening in January. This is a new idea and we are responding to the needs of working members who have not been able to attend our General Meetings in the past. The agenda for the business meeting will include a review of our financial data, operating expenses and the balance sheet; a report from the nominating committee on nominations to the Board for the 2008/9 year; discussion of program ideas for next year and a discussion of a proposed Benefactor Program to raise funds needed to continue our charitable and non-profit programs. I hope many of you can attend this meeting and join us for the dinner to follow.

Cordiali saluti,

Adam D. Crescenzi, President ICS

Per I Nostri Bacchi! Next Tasting: Thursday, January 24

I Bacchi, our wine tasting group, continues its program with two more regional tastings in the upstairs private room at the Haskell Wine Store on Pine Ridge Road. This tasting will feature a choice of wines from Puglia, allowing time for a discussion of this region and its food and wines. To add to the pleasure of our sampling experience, a complement of tasty appetizers will be served with the wine selections.

All tastings will start at 5:30 PM. Attendance will be limited so please reserve as early as possible. Price is \$20 per person. You may purchase any of the wines that we taste at special prices. Our third and last tasting of the season will be held on Saturday, March 15.

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Today. This is an opportune moment for you to bring your friends who are considering joining ICS.

Mr. Rocca graduated in Economics at the University of "La Sapienza" of Rome. In 1974 he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs serving as a career diplomat at various positions: Vice Consul in Melbourne Australia; First Secretary at the Embassy in Madrid; Counsellor at the Lima Embassy; *First Consul General in Miami (1992-1996)*; First Economic Counsellor at the Madrid Embassy (1996-2000); Ambassador to Panama (2002-2006). He has served in various other positions:

Directorate General for Economic Affairs, Directorate General for the Mediterranean and Middle East and lastly as Directorate General for the Americas (2006-2007).

We will enjoy a delicious lunch which will include Salad, choice of entrée (1) Fish of the Day (2) Stuffed Chicken Florentine or (3) Roast Sliced Sirloin of Beef, all served with Vegetable du Chef and Rice or Potato, Chocolate Mousse and Cookie, Coffee or Tea. The cost per person is **\$28** with tip and tax included. When making reservations **please note your choice of entrée.**

Don't Miss This!



10th Anniversary Inaugural Concert: "Viva Italia" Monday, January 21

On January 21 at 8pm at the Sugden Theater, The Classic Chamber Concerts Company is presenting a special Italian program, "**VIVA ITALIA**", to commemorate the Tenth Anniversary of the founding of ICS. The program will feature works by Rossini, Caccini, Scarlatti, Marcello, Donizetti, Puccini, Verdi and Mendelssohn. The guest soloist will be our well known soprano, **Steffanie Pearce**. We sincerely thank the Classic Chamber Concerts Company for cooperating with us on this special occasion. To add to the pleasure of the evening, ICS will provide dessert during intermission.

The Society has 75 reduced price tickets, **\$30** instead of **\$40**, for members only so make your reservations early. *Payment must be received within 5 days of making the reservation or the ticket(s) will be sold to the next requested reservation.* If some tickets are still available we will offer them to non members **after January 6th.**

Opera Naples Performs *La Traviata* Friday, January 25

La traviata is immensely popular and ranks third on Opera America's list of the 20 most-performed operas in North America, behind only *Madama Butterfly* and *La Boheme*.

It is an opera in three acts by composer Giuseppe Verdi and Italian librettist Francesco Maria Piave. The story is based on a French novel by Alexander Dumas published in 1848. The opera was performed for the first time at the Teatro La Fenice in Venice on March 6, 1853. The title, "*La traviata*", translates into *the woman who strayed* or *the fallen one*. As in the Dumas novel, Piave and Verdi wanted to give the opera a contemporary setting, but the authorities at La Fenice insisted that it be set in the past. It was many years before the composer's and librettist's original wishes were carried out.

You are sure to enjoy this performance which will be held at Gulf Coast High School beginning at 7:30PM. Steffanie Pearce, well known to our society, will sing the title role of "*La traviata*".

The sixty tickets we purchased at **\$30** are sold out. Members can get on a waiting list by calling voice mail or they can call the box office directly at 1-800-771-1041. Mention that you are an ICS member and you may get the ICS discounted price.



La Serie Culturale Presents "Puglia, Opening the Treasure of a Little Known Region of Italy" Sunday, January 27

Our popular *Serie Culturale* continues its season with a talk and discussion on the region of Puglia. This event will be led by program co-chairmen President Emeritus Joe Delfino and ICS Director Ron Diorio. Those attending can be assured of a lively and informative afternoon as we learn more about this novel and interesting region of Italy.

Our venue will be the Stonebridge Country Club where you may choose to have brunch, served from 10:30AM to 1PM, before attending the 1PM discussion in the Magnolia Room. The cost of the Brunch is \$17. You must make reservations for the free discussion only by calling the reservation hotline in the usual manner.

For added focus on our selected region, this event will be followed by a dinner on January 31 recreating a typical meal of Puglia.

General Meeting and Cena Pugliese Thursday, January 31

The General Meeting will be held in the evening this year in order to accommodate those members who cannot attend daytime events. Our venue will be the Royal Wood Country Club. We will follow up our discussion of the Puglia region with a dinner highlighting the food and wines of this area. There will be door prizes and a gift basket will be raffled to a lucky winner. Many facets of our society will be discussed at the meeting so plan to attend

and stay connected by keeping up with the latest developments in ICS.

The meeting begins at 5:30PM, with cocktails at 6:00PM and dinner at 6:30PM.

We will be served a five course menu consisting of focaccia with black olives, oregano, cherry tomatoes, garlic and oil to be served during the cocktail hour; mesclun salad in a leaf of radicchio with basil vinaigrette dressing; orecchiette with broccoli rabe; pollo cacciatore with peppers, zucchini and yellow squash; ciabatta; torta alle mandorle with crème anglaise; coffee and tea. A bottle of Acqua San Pellegrino per table will be included. The cost is \$33 for members and \$38 for non-members.

La Serie Culturale: Prose and Poetry Readings Sunday, February 10

Hosted by Anna Bowe and Elsa Cantoni, this program will feature Italian and English readings from Italian literature. This event will serve as an introduction to the February seminar on the famous Italian novel *I Promessi Sposi (The Betrothed)*. We will be at the Stonebridge Country Club where you may enjoy an optional brunch before the 1PM discussion in the Magnolia Room. Reserve as usual for the discussion only.

Dr. Mormando Speaks on Baroque Art Thursday, February 7



A luncheon will be held at noon at the Country Club of Naples. The guest speaker will be Dr. Franco Mormando, professor at Boston College. His subject will be Baroque Art, its origins, meaning and history.

Franco Mormando is Associate Professor of Italian Studies in the Dept. of Romance Languages and Literature at Boston College. Born and raised in New York City, he holds a doctorate in Italian literature from Harvard University as well as a Master's degree in church history from the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, having also completed the *Biennio di Filosofia* program at the Gregorian University in Rome.

In 1999 he was principal curator and catalogue editor of the Boston Caravaggio exhibition, *Saints and Sinners: Caravaggio and the Baroque Image*. He was also originator and co-curator of the 2005 exhibition at the Worcester Art Museum entitled *Hope and Healing: Painting in Italy in a Time of Plague, 1500-1800* and is currently editing a forthcoming companion volume entitled, *Piety and Plague in Europe: From Antiquity to the Early Modern Era*.

His book, *The Preacher's Demons: Bernardino of Siena and the Social Underworld of Early Renaissance Italy*, was published in 1999 by the University of Chicago Press and awarded the Howard Marraro Prize for Excellence in Italian historical scholarship by the American Catholic Historical Association.

Author of various interdisciplinary articles on Italian literature and history, popular religion and sermons, he has lectured extensively on the religious art and culture of early modern Italy at various universities and museums including the Metropolitan Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and the National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC.

In September, 2005, in recognition of his achievements in the promotion of the Italian language and culture, he was inducted by the Republic of Italy into its honorary *Ordine della Stella della Solidarietà Italiana* with the title of "Cavaliere".

The luncheon menu will be tomato and mozzarella salad, rosemary roasted pork loin, sweet potato french fries, spaghetti squash, java chip ice cream, soda, coffee and tea at a cost of **\$25** for members and **\$30** for non-members.

3-Evening Seminar: *I Promessi Sposi* Tuesdays February 12, 19, 26

The seminar will be conducted by member Anna Bowe, Italian language teacher at Lely High School. Its subject will be the famous Italian classic *I Promessi Sposi (The Betrothed)*, a precursor to the historical novel, written by Alessandro Manzoni in 1827. There will be readings and discussion in Italian and English with participation by the group as members desire. The price is **\$35** for the three evenings, plus the cost of the book which can be ordered from Barnes and Noble or Amazon.com. Reading the book is essential to participation in the seminar. Our venue is the Steinway Piano Gallery and the programs begins at 7:00PM. Light refreshments will be served. Enrollment is limited to 35 persons, so sign up early. Questions? Call Joe Delfino at 353-1842.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

January All details this issue.

- Sun. Jan. 13:** ICS sponsors buffet and filmed performance of Donizetti's opera *L'elisir d'amor* at the NIAC clubhouse. 5:30PM.
- Tues. Jan. 15:** Italian film, 7PM, Norris Center, "*Enchanted*" (*Incantato*) 2003.
- Thur. Jan. 17:** Noon luncheon at Vineyards Country Club. Consul General of Italy, Marco Rocca will speak on *Italy Today*.
- Mon. Jan 21:** ICS 10th Anniversary Inaugural Concert at the Sugden. Classic Chamber Concerts presents Italian program, *VIVA ITALIA* with soprano Steffanie Pearce. 8PM.
- Thur. Jan 24:** Wine Tasting at Haskell's. 5PM.
- Fri. Jan. 25:** "*La traviata*", Gulf Coast High School, 7:30PM.
- Sun. Jan. 27:** Brunch/discussion at Stonebridge. Presentation on the Puglia region by Joe Delfino and Ron Diorio at 1PM.
- Thur. Jan. 31:** General Meeting and Cena Pugliese.

February All details in this issue.

- Tue. Feb. 5:** Italian film, Norris Center, 7PM. "*Two Women*" (*Due donne*) 1960.
- Thur. Feb 7:** Luncheon with guest speaker Dr. Franco Mormando Baroque Art. Country Club of Naples at noon.
- Sun. Feb. 10:** Brunch/discussion at Stonebridge. Readings from Italian literature.
- Tue. Feb. 12:** Opening of 3-day seminar on Manzoni's novel "*I Promessi Sposi*". Led by Anna Bowe. In English and Italian. Steinway Gallery. Other two dates are February 19 and 26.
- Thur. Feb 21:** Dr. Stefano Albertini, program cancelled.

March All details in March/April issue.

- Sun. Mar. 2:** Brunch/Discussion at Stonebridge. 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. Naples United Church.
- Wed. Mar 12:** Luncheon and guest speaker Dr. Mary Watt, Kensington Country Club. *Machiavelli and Savonarola, Giants of the Renaissance*.
- Sat. Mar. 15:** Wine tasting at Haskell's. 5PM.
- Sun. Mar. 16:** 50 tickets for a matinee performance of Puccini's *La rondine* at the Sarasota Opera House. Dinner at a Sarasota restaurant to follow.
- Tues. Mar. 18:** Film *His Mother's Smile* rescheduled. Norris Center. 7PM.
- Weds. Mar 26:** ICS Annual Meeting.

April All details in March/April 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. SAVE THIS DATE.**
- Sun. Apr. 20:** Brunch/Discussion at Stonebridge. To be announced.
- Sun. Apr. 27:** Opera planned.

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.

Il Cinema Italiano

Showings are 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**. 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.

A voluntary donation of \$4 per person will be greatly appreciated.

Please note: *My Mother's Smile*, the November film which could not be shown because of equipment failure is being rescheduled for March 18. We regret the inconvenience to those who came to see the film.



January 15, second Tuesday: *Incantato*, winner of an Italian Academy Award for Best Director, Pupi Avati's film is a dazzling comedy with a poignant streak set in the Rome and Bologna of the 1920s. Nello Balocchi (Neri Marcoré), 35, is a shy and clumsy man devoted to the academic world. His lack of interest in women has become an increasing source of anxiety to his womanizing father (Giancarlo Giannini), a tailor for the Pope. He sends Nello to teach in a high school in Bologna with the hopes that he will find a wife. After a series of mishaps, he finds himself at a dance in a home for blind women, where he meets Angela, a beautiful society girl who went blind in an accident. She turns his life upside down and teaches him that there is a lot more to love than meets the eye. Italian with English subtitles. 2003.

February 5, *Two Women*: The two women of the title are Cesira (Sophia Loren, who won an Oscar for her performance here) and her pre-teen daughter Rosetta (Eleonora Brown). The story follows these two women as they struggle to survive in Italy at the conclusion of World War II — facing hunger, rogue Nazis, and an uncertain future. Loren gives a stunning performance. 1960. English subtitles.



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

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

The last two films will be summarized in coming issues of amici. *Nuovo mondo* is a special new film with which we are finishing 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.



La Biblioteca

The Library is open and we are looking forward to seeing you there. Welcome back to all our members who are part-time residents.

Available in the Library are Italian films in DVD or VHS format. All Italian films have English subtitles. We also have music and opera CDs and a selection of opera periodicals that highlight various operas and opera related information. Some books are written in English but most are in Italian and cover a vast number of topics. There are several novels and some general information books about Italian culture and heritage. Following are the guidelines for the Library: The Library is open by *appointment on Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon*. The Library is located in the Society and Foundation office at 5051 Castello Drive, Suite 33, on the first floor. Items may be checked out for a maximum of two-weeks. A security deposit of **\$35** in the form of a check is required for each item that is borrowed. When items are returned, the security deposit will be returned. Delores Fiano is administering the Library. Please call her **prior to** Wednesday to make your appointment. She may be reached at 239.593.5699.

Changes to the Board

The ICS Board would like to extend a warm welcome to new Directors Elsa Cantoni and Ben Turri. The Board has accepted with regret the resignations of Directors Linda Cardillo and Charles Lomanto and extends to them its sincere appreciation for their past service as former members of the Board.

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

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