

ICS PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Cari Amici,

As I write this letter to you I am reminded of how special the Christmas season

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has been and how we make the New Year's "resolutions" in hope of making a change. I hope you enjoyed your holidays and you are ready for our special ICS cultural programs. With all the change happening in our world, I see the programs and events being offered by our ICS as a stabilizing force for next year.

Our program committee has focused on events that are a combination of the traditional cinema and opera series; lectures, and events with a regional and culinary focus on Emilia Romagna.

Our season started with two films. The Welcome Back Brunch and the Christmas Dinner events were both sold out with 90 and 100 persons attending respectively. Our upcoming programs will include the Anna Magnani film series and something new - a cooking demonstration at Robb and Stucky. Our General meeting will return to a luncheon program format at a new venue, SamBucco.

In February we will celebrate Emilia Romagna with a dinner of the foods and wines of the region. We will end the year with our Annual meeting as a dinner and wine event at the Naples Italian American Club. I look forward to seeing you at our events and hope that many of you will take advantage of the programs to renew friendships and enjoy our very special culture.

As a reminder our membership is 533 members with 365 households with 40 new members added this year. Dues for the Society were due in November and for those of you who have not paid as yet please forward your dues as soon as possible so that you can attend the events.

Cordiali Saluti,

Adam D. Crescenzi
 President

*Cultural Series Luncheon
at Country Club of Naples,
185 Burning Tree Drive, Naples, FL 34105
(239) 261-1267*



*Join us
for an exciting and entertaining luncheon and
introduction to our theme region for this season,
Emilia Romagna.*

Friday, January 16, 2009 — 12 Noon

Dr. Myriam Ruthenberg, Head of Italian Studies at Florida Atlantic University, will be our guest speaker. In celebration of our regional theme for this year, Emilia Romagna, she will introduce us to a famous successor to Boccaccio, Giovanni Sercambi, best known for his 3 volume "Chronicles of the City of Lucca". In addition to giving historical perspective to Boccaccio and Sercambi, Dr. Ruthenberg will entertain us with selections from Sercambi's "Novelliere", a humorous collection of travel stories that poke fun at the residents of several cities of Emilia Romagna.

Dr. Ruthenberg is an engaging and informative speaker as well as a delightful person. She has been a guest speaker for our Society in the past.

Cost: \$28 per person for three course luncheon. Cash bar.

Directions: From Goodlette Road North turn east at Solana Road and follow to Country Club of Naples at 185 Burning Tree Drive. Valet parking is provided.

La Bohème at the Performing Arts Hall- Gulf Coast High School

*F*or all who are interested in the performing arts, we are offering a special event in co-operation with Opera Naples. They are performing La Bohème at the Performing Arts Hall-Gulf Coast High School, Immokalee Rd. Naples, January 25th, starting at 3:00pm. Ticket prices **\$65.00** for members only. For ICS members only, following the performance you can enjoy a dinner at the Giovanni's Restaurant in the Vineyard Shopping Center Pine Ridge Road. Marco Nistico of Opera Naples will be a guest speaker for an informal and intimate discussion of opera with those attending the dinner. Please make your reservations for each event separately by calling the ICS reservation line 513-4123. **\$30.00** including tax.

Serie Culturale Stonebridge Country Club Sunday, February 15, 2009

*A*nna Bowe will lead a small cast of Collier County students and ICS members in the readings of three Italian plays (up to 15 minutes each). Performances will be attractive to both English and Italian speakers.

Authors selected will be Carlo Goldoni, Alessandro Manzoni and Eduardo De Filippo. There will be a short break between readings during which attendees will be offered written materials to prepare for the next reading.

Anna will also do a short reading in Italian from Dante's Inferno.

PROGRAM: Brunch (optional) 11AM to 12:30 PM

Playreading 1 PM

Music to be played during intervals.

Refreshments (coffee and cookies) to be served after performance.

Clubhouse for optional brunch (all inclusive cost **\$25.20**).

Magnolia Room (next to clubhouse) for playreading. **FREE**.

Note: it is not necessary to have brunch if you prefer to come to the playreading only.

Directions: Stonebridge occupies the southwest corner of Immokalee and Airport Roads behind Green Tree Plaza shopping center. It has entrances on both streets.

Gate person will direct you to the clubhouse.

No valet parking.

Please reserve for brunch and for play reading. **Reservation:** (239) 513-4123

Who Was Sercambi?

*A*t the Country Club of Naples luncheon on January 16th, **Dr. Myriam Ruthenberg, Director of Italian Studies at Florida Atlantic University**, will entertain us with tales about tales! **Giovanni Sercambi** (Lucca, Emilia Romagna, 1348-1424) was a writer of moralistic tales. Novelle uses the colorful vernacular of Lucca and takes the reader on a journey through the Italian peninsula, meeting fascinating characters along the way.

Doctor Ruthenberg has been a guest speaker at **ICS** in the past and has earned a five star rating: engaging, informative, and delightful. Her PhD was earned at NYU and she also holds two Masters. She has a published work, **Scrivere Nella Polvere: Saggi su Erri De Luca**, two book translations in progress and has written about Sercambi in the **Encyclopedia of Italian Literary Studies**.

I tried to read the first tale, featuring of course the antagonisms between the Guelphs and the Ghibellinos. Brother Tomassino from Cortone, a Guelph and very "parzial" against the Ghibellinos, walks with a friend toward his birthplace Controne to visit his family there. At nightfall they are forced to take refuge in the home of a hated Ghibellino. There they create a story that as penance Tomassino must eat a bucketful of stones, which they proceed to gather from the riverbed. The host, dying to see the rock-eating spectacle, offers the Guelphs a fine dinner, after which the rocks will be Tomassino's desert. But he's too full and promises to eat them for breakfast. Naturally, they sneak off in the morning chortling about their trickery.

Novelle was published in Italian in 1892 and lacks an English translation. The book was digitized by Google from a University of Michigan copy. You can go to **www.archive.org**, click on "texts," enter the search term "Sercambi," and download the pdf format of both *Novelle* and his other work *Le Chronicle*. I must warn you that the Medieval Italian is hard to read and the thickest Italian-English dictionary doesn't help much!

Richard Cappalli

Word of the Day

A computer-based company called **www.transparent.com** offers a free email service entitled "Word of the Day" to all subscribers interested in learning a language or improving their language skills. You may choose any language available when you go to their site. Each day when a word is presented, subscribers can hear the word pronounced by a native speaker by clicking on the speaker icon in the open email. The word is used in a sentence and the translation is provided in English. Transparency also provides present, past, and future tenses if the word is a verb. Other words are shown in the singular, plural, and with a demonstrative adjective. It's fun, fast, and it's free!

Additionally subscribers can receive an "Italian Blog" from **blogs@transparent.com**. This informational site has addressed everything from the olive harvest in Tuscany to Archaeological Museum in Florence in the recent past. The woman who writes the blog is an Italian married to an Englishman and living in Italy. Often she blends the two cultures in a humorous and entertaining way. This blog is also free.

Occasionally **www.transparent.com** will advise you of a program that they have available for sale, naturally, as this is how they make their money. The ads are infrequent and you can just as easily choose to delete them. Their programs are audio and computer generated for all ages. They even have a Kid Speak Italian program, but you are under no obligation to buy anything.

Enjoy!

ICS February 24, 2009 Dinner in Celebration of Emilia Romagna

Join us for this year's celebration of the culturally and gastronomically rich region of Italy, Emilia Romagna. Cocktail hour will give us the opportunity to sample wines and hot antipasti of the region. At dinner we will enjoy a four course meal of Emilia Romagna delights made especially to our own recipes. We will be treated to a cultural introduction to this historically magnificent region. Our entertainment will highlight its musical contribution to the world. Emilia Romagna is home to Bologna, Parma, Ravenna and a host of other culturally significant cities whose delights will be unveiled to us in this evening of fun and discovery.

Cocktails: 6:30 PM • Dinner: 7:15 PM • Price: Dinner **\$40** per person • Drinks: Cash Bar

Bernard's Restaurant, Royal Woods Country Club 4300 Royal Woods Blvd, Naples.
Phone: (239) 592-6050. **Reservations:** (239) 513-4123

Directions: Approach Rattlesnake Hammock from either Rte 41 or CR 951.
Royal Woods Blvd is on the left coming from Rte 41 and on the right coming from CR 951.

General Meeting and Cultural Series Luncheon ICS February 5, 2009

General Meeting will start at **11:00 AM**, lunch at **12 Noon**. The event has to end at 2:30 PM latest. We will hold our general meeting before lunch. President Adam Crescenzi will discuss this past year and ask for comments and suggestions on future activities. **Vice President Eileen Iazzo** will introduce new director recommendations and seek member recommendations for new directors.

After our three course luncheon, writer and lecturer **Carol Jonson** will discuss **Ravenna**, the glittering western capital of the Eastern Roman Empire under Justinian, whose famous mosaic portrait gleams on the wall of the church of San Vitale. Eight monuments and churches in Ravenna, each graced with incredible Byzantine-style mosaics, have been declared UNESCO World Heritage sites. Ravenna also houses the tomb of the poet Dante who died there in exile from his beloved Florence.

Cost \$35 per person. Cash bar.

Sam Bucco Bistro, 14700 Tamiami Trail N., Naples, FL 34110 (next to Naples Tomato).
phone: (239) 592-6050. Reservations: (239) 513-4123

Italian Cultural Society Calendar of Events

For reservations made through the Italian Cultural Society reservation line, (239) 513-4123, the only credit cards accepted are Visa and Mastercard.

WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO ATTEND!

CALL EARLY FOR RESERVATIONS-SEATING IS LIMITED (239)513-4123

January

- 10th, 12 noon** Luncheon at the **Wyndemere Country Club**.
(See page 7 for details).
- 16th, 11:30** Luncheon at the **Country Club of Naples** with guest speaker, **Myriam Ruthenberg PhD. Dr. Ruthenberg** will present a talk on **Novelliere** by **Giovanni Sercambi**, a collection of moralizing tales, some of which are set in the cities of Emilia Romagna.
(See page 4 for details).
- 20th, 7pm** Film at the **Norris Center**.
Open to the Public. Donation request **\$4.00**. The film, "**Open City**" is the first of a series of three films to honor, **Anna Magnani** on the anniversary of her 100th birthday. Jed Tullet will introduce all three films.
- 21st, 2pm to 2pm** at the **Robb and Stucky Demo Kitchen**, Bonita Springs. Cooking Demonstration, of the cuisine of Emilia Romagna. Limited seating so reserve early. Cost **\$45**.
- 25th, 3pm** **LA BOHEME** presented by **Opera Naples** at the **Performing Arts Hall, Gulf Coast High School**, Immokalee Rd. **\$65.00** for members only (optional) Dinner to follow with speaker, **Marco Nistico**.
(See page 3 for details)
- 27th, 7pm** Film at the **Norris Center**.
Open to the Public. Donation request **\$4.00**. This is the second of the films to showcase **Anna Magnani** starring in **BELLISSIMA**.

February

- 3rd, 7pm** Film at the **Norris Center**. Open to the Public. Donation request **\$4.00**. This is the third and final film of the series starring **Anna Magnani** in **ROSE TATTOO**.
- 5th, 11am to 2:30 pm** General Meeting and Luncheon at the **Sam Bucco Bistro**, Bonita Springs. Serie Culturale Presentation by **Carol Jonson**, who will talk on **Ravenna**, the City of Mosaics. The cost of **\$35.00**. Cash bar.
(See page 5 for details).
- 15th, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm** Brunch at the **Stonebridge Country Club**. **Anna Bowe** will present a play reading.
(See page 3 for details).
- 24th, 6pm** Dinner to Celebrate **Emilia Romagna** at the **Royal Woods Country Club**. The cost of **\$40.00**. Cash bar. (See page 5 for details).

Preview of Events in March and April 2009
SAVE THE DATES

March

- 1st, 3pm** Conversation in Italian.
*(see footnote on page 7)
- 3rd, 7pm** Film, **Amarcord**, at the **Norris Center**, open to the public. Donation of **\$4.00** accepted.

continued on page 7

**Preview of Events
in March and April 2009**

continued from page 6

March

13th, 7:30 pm Opera Naples presents **RIGOLETTO** at **Performing Arts Hall, Gulf Coast High School**, Immokalee Rd. The price of tickets for ICS members only **\$65.00**.

April

2nd ICS Dinner at **Naples Italian American Club**. The annual meeting and dinner with wines from Emilia Romagna. **Price TBD**.
7th, 7pm Film, **PADRE PADRONE** at the **Norris Center**.

*To all our Italian speaking friends, we will again this season be gathering for a discussion in the mother tongue. **Bruno** and **Monique Baggiani** have graciously offered to be our hosts again this year.

The selected date is **Sunday, March 1, 2009** at **3 PM**.

Attendance is limited to members who are fluent in Italian. A subject will be chosen and communicated to participants in advance. If you have any suggestions for topics please call **Ron Diorio** at **594-0260**.

We limit participation so please reserve early. Refreshments will be served. There is no charge.

The Baggiani's live in **Pelican Bay** at **5550 Heron Point Drive**. Directions: Enter Pelican Bay Blvd, pass the Naples Philharmonic. Take the second left turn after the stop sign on to Crayton Road, then second right turn and follow sign to St. Nicole. An ICS person will greet you at the lobby door

LUNCHEON AT THE WYNDEMERE COUNTRY CLUB

JANUARY 10, 2009 — 12 NOON

sponsored by **Nancy Reyelt**, a member of the Italian Cultural Society

The speaker will be the President of **Amici dei Portici Bologna, Elizabeth Robinson**. Her presentation will focus on **Bologna** and the surrounding region with special emphasis on the foods, history, art and music of this very special part of Italy. In addition, there will be a special performance by soprano, **Nancy Gustafson**, who has performed with such noteables as **Luciano Pavarotti, Placido Domingo** and **Andrea Bocelli** in all the important opera houses worldwide.

Please make reservations by calling **Nancy Sant'Angelo Reyelt (239) 596-4142**

Cost: **\$28.00** and is all inclusive. Credit cards accepted.

Select grilled salmon or chicken marsala for the luncheon entrée.

Directions: Rte 41 to Golden Gate Parkway, left on Livingston Rd, right on Gray Oaks Blvd to gated entrance of Wyndemere Country Club.

Information Notice: ICS Golfers — The NIAC will hold its Second annual Charity Golf Tournament for the Special Olympics. If you are interested in playing please call Mr. Joe D'Annunzio at (239) 566-7346.

Reservations Procedure

24/7 Reservation Line: 513-4123. Clearly state your full name, phone number, the number and full names of your guests and the name of the event that 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. Payments may be made with credit cards over the phone or by checks payable to ICS.

Separate checks are required for each event you are reserving and 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. Dues, **\$60** for couples, and **\$35** for individual membership, may be submitted at any time but must be received no later than **November 1, 2008**. Per our usual policy, dues paid after April 1, 2008 will be valid through October 31, 2009. Name tags will be mailed to all new members and it is requested that members wear the name tag to all events. For your convenience, blue membership registration forms will now be available at all of the events. Visit the website at www.italianculturalsociety.com for more information.

Italian Cultural Society

of Naples, Florida, Inc.

www.italianculturalsociety.com

Phone: (239) 513-4123 Fax: (239) 353-1842

Italian Cultural Society Officers

President: Adam Crescenzi

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