

ICS PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Lateranense — the tallest obelisk in Rome and the largest standing ancient Egyptian obelisk in the world.

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Cari amici,

The holidays are still fresh remembrances and I hope that you enjoyed your special celebrations. This time of the year marks the full program offerings for our Italian Cultural Society's season. We are featuring the region of Lazio for our educational and cultural programs for 2009/10/11 seasons. In 2010, we are focusing on Roma with lectures on ancient Roma, Art in the Vatican Museum, and Art of the Renaissance and Baroque period in Roman churches and private collections. Our food and wine events will feature wines of Lazio and typical Roman cuisine. Our musical events this year will be extraordinary with a Jazz Concert featuring Ada Rovatti, international renowned saxophonist, and special guest Randy Brecker, 5-time Grammy award winner scheduled for January 29 in the Sanctuary of the United Church of Christ. A concert featuring the internationally renowned pianist Cristiana Pegoraro is slated for March 11 in Beverly Hall of the United Church of Christ. In between these very special musical events, ICS will be offering discounts on tickets to two operas.

The ICS General meeting, which is held to update the membership on the business of the Society and for nominations for directors, will be held February 25 and features a lecture by Dr Franco Mormando titled "Side by Side: The Sacred and the Sensual in Italian Religious Art of the Renaissance and Baroque". The ICS Annual meeting, held to vote for the new directors and update the membership on the business of the Society, will be held March 29 and features a lecture on Roman Mythology by Truby Chiavello, Editor of Primo magazine. Please review the ICS Calendar on Page 2 for all the scheduled events. As a reminder, it is **very important** to **CALL the RESERVATION LINE 239-434-3323** for your reservation to the events. You must do this even for no charge events.

Italian Cultural Society needs YOU!!!

As you will read in the calendar section, there are many events planned for this year and we need volunteers to help design, plan, manage and implement the events for next year as well as this year. In addition the Society needs people with special skills such as accounting, graphics design and web site software/data base experience. If you are interested in serving on one of the ICS committees please call the following chairpersons depending on your interest:

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Italian Cultural Society Calendar of Events

For reservations made through the Italian Cultural Society reservation line **239-434-3323**, ICS will continue to accept Visa and Mastercard. Please make note of the new number for reservations, and plan to attend the wonderful events focusing on Rome for the 2009-2010 season. If you must cancel a reservation, please call the reservation line.

- January 5** *Che Peccato Sia Una Canaglia*
- January 6** **Dr. Francesco Cesareo**, President of Assumption College, Lecture: Ancient Rome
Gina's Restaurant, 7th Ave. Naples
6 p.m. dinner
- January 10** "Parliamo di..." **3-5 p.m.**
The Raphael, 7117 Pelican Bay Blvd.
"Gli obelischi di Roma"
- January 11** **Robb and Stucky**
Luncheon demonstration, **11 a.m.**
- January 12** "Conosciamoci" **4300 Belair Lane**
#8 Naples in Park Shore area at **7 p.m.**
- January 19** *Divorce Italian Style*
- January 20** Wine reception at
Antinori Fine Arts Gallery
Lecture on featured Italian Artists
4-6 p.m.
- January 24** Naples Opera "*Il Travatore*", **3 p.m.**
Gulf Coast High School
- January 29** Jazz Concert — Sanctuary of United Church of Christ,
5200 Crayton Rd at Seagate Dr.
Ada Rovatti and **Randy Brecker**
perform light jazz **6:30 p.m.**
Reception to follow
- February 2** *La Dolce Vita*
- February 9** The Strand Luncheon at **11 a.m.**
Lecture: **Fr. Mark Haydu, LC**,
Office for the Patrons of the Arts,
Vatican Museum
- February 16** *Stanno Tutti Bene*
- February 25** ICS General Meeting at Country Club of Naples **11 a.m.**
Lecture: **Dr. Franco Mormando, PhD**
on Roman art of Renaissance and Baroque periods
- February 28** "Parliamo di..." **3-5 p.m.**
The Raphael, 7117 Pelican Bay Blvd.
Topic to be announced
- March 2** *Ieri, Oggi, Domani*
- March 11** Cristiana Pegoraro Concert at Beverly Hall
Courtyard Reception after the performance
- March 19** St. Joseph Regional Wine Dinner at
The Club Pelican Bay
- March 21** "Parliamo di..." **3-5 p.m.**
The Raphael, 7117 Pelican Bay Blvd.
Topic to be announced
- March 29** Luncheon at SamBuca's Restaurant
Lecture: *Primo* magazine editor
- April 6** *Two Women*
- April 11** "Parliamo di..."

Call early for reservations! **239-434-3323**

Committees

Program Planning and Events:
Hospitality Committee:
Public Relations and Advertising:

Chairperson

Jean Di Pierro
Virginia Mazzeo
Richard Cappalli

Membership/Nominating:
Web site and Data Management:
Finance and accounting:
Cinema and Opera

Anthony Abbate
Fred Luconi
Anthony Abbate
Peter Scianna

Our final need for assistance is in sponsorship for events where we will be offering refreshments. I know that we are in difficult financial times and there are many non-profit organizations such as ours that are asking for financial help. Your ICS board has worked hard to put together a financially sound budget and plan for this coming year to balance revenue and expenses. However, the Society would benefit from the generosity of patrons to three of our events. If you are interested in learning more about how you can contribute in this way please call your ICS President.

I look forward to seeing you at our ICS events.

Cordial salute,
Adam D Crescenzi
President

Come Join the Feast

On **January 6** you can do as the Romans would do: eat, drink and be entertained at **Gina's Restaurant** in Naples at **6 p.m.** as Dr. Francesco Cesareo, President of Assumption College in Worcester, MA enlightens us on "The Idea of Rome" prior to our three course meal with wine.

Rome will come under Dr. Cesareo's spotlight as we examine the way the ultimate city has been understood throughout antiquity and beyond. Rome, not only a physical entity but also a symbolic entity, has been imbued with a unique culture and identity forged by history and the personalities of

those who governed her, and Dr Cesareo will be our guide as we reflect on the power of Rome both as an idea and as a symbol from its founding to the Imperial Age.

Date: January 6

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: Gina's Restaurant, 849 7th Avenue South, Naples

Price: **\$35** per person. Seating is limited to 90. Reservations required by calling **239-434-3323**.

Art Gallery Opens Its Doors To ICS

Unlike the classical painters we will be presenting throughout the season with our lecture series, the Antinori Gallery's collection features current artists some of whom are living and working in Italy. Sorzana will present the art and discuss the painters, and Antinori may be persuaded to share stories of her noble, **Florentine** ancestry.

A wine reception and refreshments will follow the presentation.

Date: **January 20**, Time: **4-6 p.m.**

Place: The Antinori Gallery at **1300 3rd Street South in Naples**

Price: **\$7 per person**. Reservation required. Attendance limited to **35** due to the size of the gallery.

The **Antinori Art Gallery** owners, **Clorinda Antinori** and **Herman Sorzana**, will welcome **ICS** to their gallery on **3rd Street South** for an evening of art appreciation, wine and refreshments on **January 20**.

Ada Rovatti's Italian Jazz Concert With Special Guest Randy Brecker

The beautiful and talented **Ada Rovatti**, band leader and saxophone super star, will make a special appearance for the Italian Cultural Society **Jan. 29** at the **United Church of Christ**.

Rovatti, Italian-born and trained classical pianist, is a regular on saxophone at all the major jazz festivals, and she will be blending her talents with jazz and R&B trumpet maestro **Randy Brecker**, a five time Grammy winner. Brecker has performed to great acclaim by jazz and rock lovers at festivals and jazz sites throughout the United States and around the world.

Executive Producer and Pelican Marsh resident **Luciano Morello** has enlisted four local talents to perform with Brecker and Rovatti for our listening enjoyment. This truly remarkable evening of entertainment is not to be missed. The spacious and comfortable Sanctuary at UCC and its charming Courtyard provide the perfect venue for this amazing event and reception.

Date: **January 29** Time: **6:30 p.m.** with reception immediately to follow performance

Place: **United Church of Christ** 5200 Crayton Rd. at the intersection of Seagate

Price: **\$30** per person. Reservations required by calling **239-434-3323**

To learn more and enjoy a sampling: www.randybrecker.com and www.adarovatti.com

For Your Enjoyment

ICS member Maria Fabriano has advised us that her daughter, Laurie Fabriano, has published an historical novel entitled *ELIZABETH STREET* that is meeting with very positive reviews.

Based on actual events, Fabriano's multigenerational saga, which took ten years to write, opens in an Italian village in the 1900s and crosses the Atlantic to New York's Lower East Side. *ELIZABETH STREET* brings to light a period in history when Italian immigrant neighborhoods lived in fear of the notorious Black Hand-precursor to the Mafia. The heroine, Giovanna, is based on Fabriano's great-grandmother whose family was targeted by the extortion and merciless violence of the Black Hand that defies the romanticized depictions of the Mafia previously served up in film and literature. Heroes and villains drawn from real life round out the characters in this thrilling tale of Giovanna's triumph over tragedy.

ICS Lecture Series Continues Through February

Luncheon and Vatican Art Restoration Lecture



The Club at the Strand will host ICS for an elegant lunch and lecture on Vatican Art Restoration presented by **Fr. Mark Haydu** on **February 9 at 11 a.m.**

Fr. Haydu, International Coordinator for the Office of the Patrons of the Arts of the Vatican Museums, will lift the veil of secrecy about the Vatican treasures. Fr. Haydu, who was born and raised in Akron, Ohio, speaks fluent Italian, Spanish and English and holds degrees in classical art and humanities, philosophy and theology.

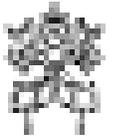
The Vatican Museum, started in 1505 by Pope Julius II, boasts an unsurpassed collection, both

universal and unique, that is unsurpassed by any other in the world in terms of heritage and numbers. What is currently on display to Museum visitors represents about one quarter of the total collection, and Fr. Haydu will enlighten us as our lecture series continues. To learn more about Vatican Art please visit: www.vatican-patrons.org.

Date: **Feb. 9** Time: **11 a.m.**

Place: **The Club at the Strand 5840 Strand Blvd.** off Immokalee across from Super Wal-Mart

Price: **\$38** per person. Reservations limited. Call the reservation line **239-434-3323**



General Meeting Luncheon and Lecture

ICS will hold its Annual General Meeting at the Country Club of Naples followed by an informative lecture on Renaissance and Baroque Roman Art by Dr. Franco Mormando, Associate Professor of Italian and 2005 inductee into the honorary "Ordine della Stella della Solidarieta'" by the President of Italy. The General Business Meeting with Committee, Nominating, and Programs/Planning reports to the membership will begin at 11 a.m. followed by Dr. Mormando's lecture "Side by Side: The sacred and the sensual in Italian Religious Art of the Renaissance and Baroque." With degrees from Columbia, Harvard, Gregorian University in Rome and the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, Dr. Mormando will serve as expert guide through the centuries as our Ancient Rome lecture series draws to a conclusion.

Dr. Mormando notes that one of the most puzzling aspects for viewers of Italian religious art of the Renaissance and Baroque is the often blatant sensuality, sometimes bordering on what would today be considered erotic. Why so much exposed flesh in art destined for churches and pious domestic devotion? How did the artists, patrons, and Church understand and explain it? Did they even see it as problematic? Dr. Mormando will provide the answers based on documentation of the period with numerous illustrations from the famous Italian masters including Michelangelo, Caravaggio and Bernini.

Date: **February 25, Time: 11 a.m.**

Place: Country Club of Naples 185 Burning Tree Drive in Naples **239-261-1032** for directions

Price: **\$25** per person. Reservations required **239-434-3323**.

Language Classes Begin Session Two on January 13

The Italian Cultural Society offers Adult Language classes at the **Community School in Naples, Building N, 2nd floor**, throughout the ICS program year offering many varied opportunities to explore our language under the instruction of trained, dedicated teaching professionals. Consider joining conversational classes as they begin the second session from **January 13** through **February 17**.

In addition to **Italian 1, 2, and 3**, and **Conversational Italian** for Beginners and Intermediate students presented by **Dr. Ben Turri** and **Dr. Grace Mannino**; **Dr. Rosalba Coppola** will offer a class in **Session Two** using books acquired in Italy containing excerpts from contemporary Italian writers and focusing on Italian language through **Opera with Tosca** as the object of study. Movies and film will be the focus of **Dr. Coppola's Spring class**.

To register for any of the Adult Language Classes which are **\$60** for each 6 week session, contact **Ben Turri, 239-254-1155**.

La Nostra Bella Lingua

As many students of Italian language have discovered, everyday or colloquial Italian sometimes eludes them. They can become uncomfortable as they attempt to converse and find the language peppered with little expressions and euphemisms neglected in traditional classes. "Non capiscono un cavolo di niente!! They do not understand "a cabbage of" nothing!! Well, you get the idea.

Dr. Grace Mannino has offered to share "*Modi di dire della lingua italiana*" with us in this column designed to present some ways of expressing ourselves more fully in Italian. She writes "I modi di dire nella lingua Italiana sono infiniti. Queste espressioni fanno parte del linguaggio di ogni giorno e le usiamo senza a volte renderci conto che stiamo parlando per metafore."

For example: Ti confido quello che ho sentito, ma mi raccomando, non lo ripeter a nessuno. **Acqua in bocca!**
Acqua in bocca!: e' un invito a tacere, a mantenere un segreto. Keep a secret! Literally: Water in the mouth!

More Language Opportunities for Members

Conosciamoci (Let's get to know each other) is underway. This informal, conversational gathering of intermediate level speakers will hold its first session on **Jan. 12 at 7 p.m.** in the home of the instructor at **4300 Belair Lane #8, Naples 34103** in the Park Shore area. Nancy can be contacted at menaldiscanlon@gmail.com if you would like to join this group which plans to meet every other Tuesday.

Parliamo di...

Parliamo di... will continue to meet at **The Raphael** located at **7117 Pelican Bay Blvd**, thanks to the hospitality of Fil Raia. Next gathering will be **Jan. 10 from 3-5 p.m.** and the discussion will focus on "Gli Obelischi di Roma". Parliamo di... always has a topic to discuss and is open to those fluent in Italian or those who wish to be. No instruction or correction is provided in this informal format that welcomes newcomers. Reservations are requested as the group enjoys refreshments after the conversation. Contact **Luisa Basile** at gibasile@aol.com if you would like more information, plan to attend or need to cancel your reservation.

// Cinema Italiano

ICS is again privileged to have Jed Tullet, screenwriter and Italian film appassionato, introducing six of our film offerings from January through **April 6**.

Jed's insightful expertise serves as an enhancement to our viewing experience and enjoyment of the Italian films with English subtitles. In the past, his remarkable depth of knowledge was very well received by an appreciative audience, and ICS is grateful that he will continue on in this capacity.

Jed's first film presentation will be "*Divorce Italian Style*" on **January 19**. For information about the films, refer to the reviews presented in "amici" Volume 11, Issue 1, pages 6-7. Film dates are listed in this issue of "amici" in the Calendar Of Events on page 2.

All films will be shown at **7 p.m.** at the Norris Center in Naples. Reservations are not required to attend the films. A **\$5** donation is requested.



On **Thursday, March 11** Italian-born pianist Cristiana Pegoraro, acclaimed as one of the most gifted musicians of her generation, will perform for ICS at **6 p.m.** in the Beverly Hall of the Naples United Church of Christ located at the corner of Seagate and Crayton Roads.

Ms. Pegoraro has performed in some of the greatest concert halls of Europe, United States, South America and Australia including The Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, the United Nations, and the Guggenheim Museum in New York.

Hailed by critics as among the best interpreters of Cuban and South American music, Ms. Pegoraro performs the works of well-known Latin American composers blending her own compositions and some of her poignant poetry for a truly gifted performance. In 2007 she received The President of Italy Award.

ICS gratefully acknowledges the efforts of Executive Producer Luciano Morello, a resident of Pelican Marsh, who has coordinated the appearance of Ms. Pegoraro and the program.

Please call the ICS reservation line to attend the one hour performance and the reception in the Courtyard immediately following. Seating is limited to 120.

Date: **March 11**, Time: **6:00-8:30 p.m.**

Place: **Beverly Hall**, United Church of Christ, corner of Seagate and Crayton Rd., Naples

Cost: **\$29.00** per person- Please reserve early using the ICS Reservation Line

Cancellations must be received **5 days** prior to the event.

Reservations Procedure

24/7 Reservation Line: 239-434-3323. 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, 2009**. Per our usual policy, dues paid after April 1, 2010 will be valid through October 31, 2010. 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: 239-434-3323

Italian Cultural Society Officers

President: Adam Crescenzi

First Vice President: Fred Luconi

Second Vice President: Jean DiPierro

Secretary: Grace Mannino

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