

ICS PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Cari Amici,

As you read this spring issue of amici, the season for our Italian Cultural Society programs will be more than half over. Our programs have been sold out on attendance and few were not perhaps reflecting the special interest of some and maybe a function of the economic times.

Your Board of Directors has responded to the hard economic times by undertaking a couple of cost reduction programs to reduce our fixed cost to operate the Society. We have closed the

office on Castello Drive, reduced the number of mailings and are using the web-site and email to communicate special notices and changes. Also we will reduce the number of issues of amici from four to two. We recognize that not everyone is on email. So for the next year we will use hard copy notices and postal mail for only those members who do not have electronic access. We encourage as many of you as possible to use our web-site and email. There is considerable cost savings if we can transition the Society to electronic media. The Board of Directors will begin the transition plan over the next two years. We are planning to move to electronic communication as the main media for Membership renewal, the Membership directory, amici, and news of the ICS programs and special events. The Board of Directors recognizes that not everyone will be able to make this transition as soon as possible; which is why we are planning on a two year period. At our annual

meeting on **April 2, 2009** you will learn more about our plans for next year and most importantly, the cultural themes and programs we are planning for next season.

For our members who want to enjoy an afternoon speaking in their native language, please take part in the **March 1, 2009** conversation in Italian, "**Parliamo di...**". If any members are willing to host a session let us know. The language is a key to our culture, and the more we can use it the better for all of us.

For our Opera lovers, be sure to come on **March 13, 2009** to see Opera Naples perform Rigoletto. Their performance of La Boheme was outstanding. Many of us were truly moved by the vocalists and their acting.

Finally, be sure to come to the final major event of the season our Annual meeting and dinner **April 2, 2009** at the **Naples Italian American Club**.

Cordiali Saluti

Adam

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Another Look At Emilia-Romagna



As the programming for the Italian Cultural Society year draws to a close, it seems appropriate to look back once more on the glorious region of Emilia-Romagna which has been highlighted in our program offerings throughout 2008-2009.

Emilia-Romagna is situated in the central-northern region of Italy and offers diverse countryside, fascinating medieval cities and castles, good beaches, and some of the finest cuisine in Italy. Emilia-Romagna is centered around the ancient city of Bologna dubbed as 'Bologna La Grassa' (Bologna The Fat) because of its passion for excellent food or 'Red Bologna' in reference to its political leanings. Bologna, a beautiful city with food for body and mind, is known as a cultured and

sophisticated destination with a reputation for impressive architecture and forward-looking, tolerant denizens. It was named the European Capital of Culture in 2000 and serves, more or less, as the dividing line between two distinct areas as the hyphenated name suggests.

Bologna may be the capital, but it is only one of a number of ancient regional centers including Parma, Reggio Emilia, Modena, Ravenna, and Rimini all threaded together with a modern highway that follows the route of the old Roman road, Via Emilia, constructed in the 2nd century B.C. Parma is said to have the highest standard of living in Italy, and this pleasant, affluent town known for having more theatres and opera houses than anywhere else in Italy also offers famous Parma ham and Parmesan cheese as well as superb food. Parma can lay claim to the first food university. Modena is well-known for its 12th century cathedral (Duomo) situated at the heart of an undisturbed medieval core of streets radiating out in concentric circles. Ravenna, once the capital of the Western Roman Empire, is a center of art and culture and is known as 'the city of mosaics' due to the Byzantine influences after the Fall of the Roman Empire. The legacy of Constantinople is an enormous treasure house of architecture, monuments, and religious buildings. Ferrara was once dubbed 'the first modern city in Europe' after the Dukes of Este filled it with a maze of medieval streets, castle-like palazzi and numerous works of art.

Both halves of the region pride themselves on their friendliness, generosity, and excellent food and drink. The region takes credit for having created the tricolor, Italy's flag. Innovation and design still characterize the area and Ferrari, Maserati, Lamborghini, and Ducati all call Emilia-Romagna home. The same can be said for food giants Barilla Pasta, Parmalat (milk), and Cremonini.

Emilia-Romagna boasts a rich musical tradition with native sons including Toscanini, Verdi, Pavarotti, Freni, Raimondi and Zuccherò, Italy's best-known soul-blues singer. The region also produced great cinematographers in Fellini, Antonioni, and Bertolucci. Bologna's resident celebrity is Umberto Eco, author of *The Name of the Rose*, and a leading literary light, scholar, and semiologist. Sean Connery starred in the Hollywood adaptation of his book in a movie of the same name. Both book and DVD are available in local bookstores in English. Bertolucci starred in *Stealing Beauty* with Liv Tyler.

The tourist handbook reminds us that above all, this is an area where everything is harmonious, everything works, and the cult of beauty permeates most aspects of life, from the magical to the mundane. No wonder ICS chose to celebrate this magnificent region!

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Plan to join us as we continue to celebrate the glittering jewel in Italy's crown, Emilia-Romagna. Bernard's Restaurant at Royal Wood Country Club will host our February 24th gathering featuring antipasti, and several courses of Emilian delights that Chef Norbert will prepare to our own recipes. The Program Committee has prepared an enlightening presentation on this magnificent region. Livio Ferrari, Argentinean born Italian tenor with Naples Opera and a familiar performer with the Naples Opera Society will entertain us with arias as part of the evenings festivities.

Place: Royal Wood Country Club,
4300 Royal Wood Dr., Naples (774-4451)

Date: February 24, 2009

Time: Cocktails 6:30 with Dinner at 7:15

Cost: \$40 per person with cash bar

Reservations through ICS reservation line
at 239-513-4123

Directions: Rt. 41 or CR 951 to Rattlesnake Hammock.
Bernard's is on the left if coming from 41 and on the right from 951
(approximately 2 miles after the turn onto Rattlesnake)

Parliamo di... Slated To Meet on March 1

A core group of ICS members fluent in Italian has formed “Parliamo di...” to meet and discuss “all things Italian” on a continuing basis. On **March 1** from **3-5 p.m.** “Parliamo di” will meet at Pelican Bay, 5550 Heron Point Drive in Naples to continue the celebration of Emilia-Romagna by sharing information about the illustrious citizens of the region, past and present, in an open forum. Come share your knowledge of Emilian art, music, history, food, films, mosaics, or mechanics in a casual atmosphere. Bruno and Monique Baggiani have again graciously offered to host the group in the St. Nicole Building at Pelican Bay.

Saranno serviti caffè e biscotti!

Directions: Enter Pelican Bay Blvd. and continue past Naples Philharmonic. Take the second left after the stop sign on Crayton Rd, then second right turn. Follow the sign to St. Nicole Building. An ICS member will greet you in the lobby. For information, call Ron Diorio at 594-0260.

Rigoletto by Giuseppe Verdi

Written in 1851 and first performed that year in Venice's La Fenice,

Verdi's great opera will be offered by Naples Opera on March 13, 7 p.m., at the ICS price of \$65. It will be staged at the Performing Arts Hall, Gulf Shore High School. Some have complained about the acoustics there, but a couple I respect think they are fine.

Rigoletto means “circle of dancers hand-in-hand,” but this simple translation masks the diabolical twists and turns of this Verdi masterpiece. Those who attend will surely be familiar with the story, set in Mantua in the 1500's. The Duke of Mantua, a womanizer of soap opera proportions, escorts Countess Ceprano to a private chamber as Rigoletto, his hunchback jester, makes fun of her husband, who plots to get vengeance. Another nobleman, the elderly Monterone, enters the court, denounces the Duke for seducing his daughter, is placed under arrest, and casts a curse on both the Duke and Rigoletto.

In the next scene of Act 1, Rigoletto tries to hide his daughter Gilda, secretly in love with the Duke, is pretending to be a poor student. Courtiers then abduct Gilda, mistakenly thinking she is Rigoletto's mistress. They blindfold and trick Rigoletto into helping them. When he figures it out, he remembers the curse.

In Act 2, the courtiers bring Gilda to the palace to be offered up to the Duke. Rigoletto desperately looks for her. When Gilda appears (en deshabille), Rigoletto swears to get even with the Duke.

Act 3 ends with Gilda, accidentally stabbed by the assassin Sparafucile, dead and stuffed in a sack. Rigoletto thinks it's the Duke who's in there, but hears the Duke singing, opens the sack and finds his daughter dying. It's the curse!!!

Rigoletto will be played by the baritone Todd Thomas. Go to toddtomasbaritone.bravehost.com for a biography and preview his voice by clicking on “News” to hear him sing DiLuna's aria from *Il Trovatore*. Tenor Stuart Neill is cast as the Duke. Go to stuartneill.com for his background. Both singers have performed at great opera houses around the world and have impeccable credentials (and voices too).

At amazon.com you can buy the soundtrack of **Rigoletto** for **\$17**, featuring Pavarotti and Joan Sutherland. A detailed synopsis of the opera is available at www.musicwithease.com/rigoletto. Happy reading and listening!

Richard Cappalli



Italian Cultural Society Business Meeting and Dinner April 2, 2009

National Italian American Club

Located at Orange Blossom and Airport Pulling across from the Naples Library

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Business Meeting and Dinner

Business Meeting 6:00-6:45

Review of Current year including Programs and Finances

Election of New Directors

Briefing on the status of NCIA

Plans and Programs for 2009-2010

Question and Answer Session

Dinner 7:00

Offering a sneak preview of the 2009-2010 year featuring the Lazio Region, a special menu has been prepared focusing on Roman specialties and wines.

Cost: \$35

Preview of Coming Attractions

The Programs Committee is already hard at work focusing on the Lazio Region of Italy for the 2009-2010 ICS calendar year. Of course, Rome and the Vatican will get time in the spotlight, as well as other regional notables.

In addition to favorites such as the Christmas Dinner and the Opera, Programs Chair, Jean DiPierro, has her committee investigating the following exciting events for your enjoyment:

- 1 or 2 Performing Arts Presentation
- 1 Visual Arts Presentation
- 2 Luncheons with Guest Speakers
- Robb and Stucky Cooking Demonstration
- Six Films with a Three Film Concentration on
Marcello Mastroianni

Jean or President Adam Crescenzi would love to hear your comments and suggestions about these events. Feel free to call or contact them by email or stop to chat with them at the **April 2 Business Meeting and Dinner**.

Antonella Albano

ICS offers its congratulations to Antonella Albano, foreign language teacher at Gulf Coast High School, upon her nomination as Collier County Teacher of Distinction and her induction into the Academy of Teachers, a group of educators involved in collaborative projects within the Collier Schools.

Antonella will be recognized at the 19th Annual Golden Apple Teacher Recognition Celebration at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts on May 19, 2009. Media partners WINK-TV and Naples Daily News will provide ongoing coverage of the program.

Antonella was born in Naples, Italy and studied in Naples and Milan earning her Master's Degree in Foreign Languages. She has lived in the U.S. for 13 years and in Naples for the past nine. Antonella started the first Italian language program in the Collier County Public Schools seven years ago and has taught Italian full time for the last three years. According to the District Communication and Information Office, the establishment of Italian reflects the strong commitment of Gulf Coast High School and Collier County Schools to second language acquisition.

Antonella also received the National Italian American Teacher of the Year Award from the National Italian American Foundation in 2004-2005 and flew to Washington, D.C. to be honored along with Luciano Pavorotti, Tim McGraw, and Faith Hill at the N.I.A.F.s two day Annual Convention.

Maurice Lo Monaco, Sicilian born singer and song writer, has performed nationally and internationally since childhood. He resides in SW Florida several months of the year and can be heard singing Italian songs from the heart every Wednesday night from 7-10 p.m. at Pagelli's Cucina, Coconut Point.

He performed last month to rave reviews at the National Italian American Club dinner.

A simple stroll through the area between Pagelli's and Hemmingway's allows one to enjoy his mellow, well-trained voice for free. Divertiti!

Boston College will display a fabulous private collection of 48 pieces of stunningly beautiful art never before seen outside of Italy from February through May 2009. This is a first time ever event that has been three years in the planning. Contact Adam Crescenzi or go to the Boston College web page for more information.

Il Cinema Italiano



Amarcord (I Remember) March 3, 2009. A year in the life of a small Italian coastal town in the nineteen-thirties, as is recalled by a director with a superstar's access to the resources of the Italian film industry and a piper's command over our imaginations. Federico Fellini's film combines the free form and make-believe splendor with the comic, bittersweet feeling for character and narrative we remember from some of his best films of the 1950s. The town in the film is based on Rimini, where Mr. Fellini grew up. Yet there is now something magical, larger-than-life about the town, its citizens and many of the things that happen to them. Directed by Federico Fellini. Actors are Pupella Maggio, Armando Brancia and Magali Noël. Release date 1974, color, 123 minutes,



Padre Padrone April 7, 200. Padre Padrone is the intense and powerful tale of a young, barely literate shepherd boy, who lives under the thumb of his tyrannical and brutal peasant father. Rescued from family and his isolated lifestyle when called for military service, the boy eventually emerges as a brilliant scholar. A landmark Italian film directed by brothers Paolo and Vittorio Taviani in 1979, the story was based on an autobiographical book by Gavino Ledda. Starring Fabio Angioni, Fabrizio Forte, Giuseppe Brandino and Giuseppino Angioni. Release date 1977, color, 109 minutes, not rated, Italian with English subtitles.

ICS extends a heart-felt thank you to screenwriter, Jed Tullet, who introduced the films in the Anna Magnani series presented at the Norris Center in January and early February.

Jed began his screenwriting career at the same time that he was "teaching Literature and Drama at one of those comfortably padded lunatic asylums otherwise known as the English Public School." He has written free lance articles for various magazines in England, particularly Literary Review and Harpers & Queen. He joined the film production company Amy International at the urgings of his closest friend, actress Susan George and her husband, Simon MacCorkindale. His wife, Nina, headed mini-series at ABC TV in Los Angeles, and through her contacts Jed went on to write for ABC, CBS, and the History Channel in the US and for Channel 4 and the BBC in London.

We were privileged to have Jed's insights and expertise as an enhancement to our enjoyment of the three films in the Magnani Series. His remarkable depth of knowledge regarding film in general and Magnani in particular was very well received by an appreciative audience.

Jed has agreed to present the two remaining films for the year previewed above. ICS has extended an invitation to him to continue on in this capacity next year as we focus on the work of Marcello Mastroianni, and films in which the beautiful city of Rome plays a starring role.

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

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