

ICS PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Laocöon and his sons, found in Rome in 1506 in the ruins of Titus's palace. Early 1st Century, Vatican Museum

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Cari amici,

I hope your winter season of ICS programs here in Naples is meeting your expectations. As you read this issue of *amici*, let me thank the many volunteers who have come forward to assist in making our programs to date so successful. It is important to take note of the fact that several of our programs have been chaired by individual members of the Society as well as members of the Board of Directors. The Italian Cultural Society is for your enjoyment and pleasure, and the more people who become involved the better the programs. If you attended the exciting Jazz Concert on January 22, you may have noticed that we had 175 ICS members and more than 200 non-members attending from the Naples area. Included among the attendees were students from Gulf Coast High School Italian Language programs who were invited to be our special guests. ICS also extended an invitation to local music students to attend this very special event as our guests. While very few students attended the concert, it was our pleasure to extend an invitation to them as part of our ongoing efforts to increase awareness of Italian culture and its impact on the world and the many facets of our lives. A Jazz concert, sponsored by the Society, has not been held since 2005, and an event of this magnitude is a major undertaking for the Society. We extend our special thank you to Richard Cappalli, who chaired the event, Luciano Morello, the Executive Producer, and the twenty volunteers who helped make it happen.

As we enter the third phase of our Italian Cultural Society programs for the 2010 season, our programs continue to focus on Rome and the Lazio region with three guest speakers: Fr Mark Haydu, LC who will speak on the Art of the Vatican Museum; Dr Franco Mormando, PhD. who will present "Side by Side: the Sacred and Sensual in Italian Religious Art of the Renaissance and Baroque" and Truby Chiaviello, Editor of *Primo Magazine*, who will discuss Italy today.

Our Adult Italian Language Programs continue this Spring with Dr. Grace Mannino and a new teacher, Nancy Menaldi-Scanlan, working with Ben Turri. The third six-week session will conclude in April. In addition, our member lead programs entitled "Parliamo di..." and "Conosciamoci" will continue through the season. Those interested are always welcome to attend.

Our next musical event will be a piano concert featuring the internationally renowned pianist Cristiana Pegoraro in Beverly Hall of the United Church of Christ on March 11, 2010. 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.

One of the changes occurring in the field of opera over the past two years is the impact of the cinema in Naples and Bonita Springs on opera attendance. With local movie theaters offering live, HD performances from the Metropolitan Theatre in New York for a substantially reduced ticket price (in some cases less than one third the cost of a regular opera ticket), the impact on Southwest Florida local opera lovers and ICS scheduling has been appreciable. Peter Scianna, ICS Board of Directors member responsible for opera planning, has observed a significant drop in attendance and interest in the local opera performances. Peter has created an email contact list of members who have expressed an interest in opera and who have attended opera in the past as a way of determining the future of ICS offerings in opera. Contact Peter (649-6076 or p_scianna@sbcglobal.net) with your thoughts on program offerings in opera for the upcoming season.

As you may recall we conducted a survey last year to give the board some guidance as to your desires for programs for the future. Our goal is to update the information for the 2010/11 season. If you have an interest in participating in this effort, contact Nick Nappi (597-9733 or astrumltd@aol.com) the Director who chairs the survey study or Jean DiPierro (596-7214 or jean.dipierro@gmail.com), Program Planning Committee chair.

The Italian Cultural Society needs a person with accounting or finance experience who will work with Rose Parapiglia, our controller, to take over the function of controller for the Society in the future. Rose has done an outstanding job for more than 7 years in this role. She would welcome someone to work with her now and to eventually take her place.

Volunteers are always needed. If you are interested in serving on one of the ICS committees please call the following chairpersons depending on your interest:

Committees	Chairperson	
Program Planning and Events:	Jean DiPierro	596-7214
Hospitality Committee:	Virginia Mazzeo	596-7743
Public Relations and Advertising:	Richard Cappalli	591-8812
Membership/Nominating:	Anthony Abbate	254-9730
Web Site and Data Management:	Fred Luconi	566-3109
Finance and Accounting:	Anthony Abbate	254-9730
Cinema and Opera	Peter Scianna	640-6076

Cordiali saluti,

Adam D Crescenzi
President

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.

- March 11** Cristiana Pegoraro Concert
- March 14** NIAC's St. Joseph's Day Dinner Celebration
- March 21** "Parliamo di..." 7117 Pelican Bay Blvd. from 3-5 p.m.
- March 29** Luncheon and Lecture with Truby Chiaviello, *Primo* editor at Sam Bucco
- April 11** "Parliamo di..." 7117 Pelican Bay Blvd. from 3-5 p.m

General Meeting and Luncheon Lecture Feb. 25

The Annual General Meeting of ICS will be held at the **Country Club of Naples on Thursday, February 25 at 11 a.m.** All members are invited and strongly encouraged to attend this informative meeting. Agenda items include a review of our society's financial and membership operations as well as preliminary program planning for the 2010-2011 season.

The Nominating Committee will present a slate of proposed Directors and recommendations for Controller and Membership Chair. A Question and Answer period will conclude the meeting.

Dr. Franco Mormando, PhD will present a lecture entitled "Side by Side: The Sacred and the Sensual in Italian Religious Art of the Renaissance and Baroque" after the general business meeting. Dr. Mormando will serve as our expert guide through the centuries as our lecture series on ancient Rome draws to a conclusion.

Reservations are required for this meeting and luncheon priced at **\$25**. The Country Club of Naples is located at 185 Burning Tree Drive. Call **239-434-3323** for reservations.



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 Road.

Ms. Pegoraro has performed in some of the greatest concert halls of Europe, United States, South America and Australia including 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.

JAZZ CONCERT A HUGE SUCCESS



Photographs by Richard Cappalli

The January Jazz Concert drew a crowd of approximately 400 who enjoyed the dulcet sounds of Ada Rovatti on sax, Randy Brecker on trumpet, Lew Del Gatto, tenor sax, Paul Shewchuk on bass, Jerry Stawski at the piano and Goetz Kujak on drums through the efforts of Richard Cappalli, board member and event organizer. After the concert, held in the spacious sanctuary of Naples United Church of Christ, attendees were treated to wine, snacks and Paula Cappalli's tri-colored tortellini under a star-studded sky. Guests returned home from the satisfying event with an 8 page program printed at UCC as a memento of the evening.



Vincenza Scarpaci, immigration historian and author, has published a book entitled *The Journey of Italians in America*, using almost 500 photos from all over Italy and throughout America to document the experience. Described as "more-than-a-coffeetable-book" by Suzi Steffen in the *Eugene Weekly*, Scarpaci uses images she has tracked down and those given to her to fill every page with "verbal and visual threads that help weave a tapestry of U.S. and Canadian life today" as impacted through the efforts of Italian immigrants. Scarpaci, formerly of Brooklyn and currently residing in Eugene, is visiting the Naples area this month. www.italianamericanjourney.org for more information.

The Italian American Society of Marco Island is hosting international singing sensation Moreno Fruzzetti on **Sunday, March 7 from 5-9 p.m. at San Marco Church**. Cost for dinner, concert and dancing is **\$50 per person**. For information, contact **Russ or Michele Azzolina at 239-262-4849**.

St. Joseph's Day 2010

Events beyond our control have caused the cancellation of the ICS St. Joseph Day Dinner scheduled for March 19 as listed in the previous editions of *amici*. While we are unable to celebrate this special day in the grand style that we had originally planned, we would like to advise our membership of the Naples Italian American Club's event that includes a special evening of dining and entertainment on **March 14** (yes, a little early) at their facility on Orange Blossom and Airport Road.

The Italian Dinner Theater will present two comedic skits in English and Italian by the Kairos Theater of New York for an entertaining look at Italian art, language, culture, tradition and stereotypes.

Traditional foods will be offered to celebrate this Feast Day, and the "St. Joseph Table," laden with homemade bread, and various sweets, dates, figs and nuts will serve as an after-dinner treat for continued feasting.

Doors open at **4 p.m.** with dinner at **5**. Performance scheduled to begin at **6:30**. Call NIAC for reservations at **597-5210**. Cost is **\$25** per person. NIAC suggests reserving early.

March 29 Luncheon



ICS will host Truby Chiaviello, editor of *Primo* magazine, at a luncheon and lecture on Monday, March 29 at Sam Bucco Restaurant, 14700 Tamiami Trail from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Primo, the magazine "For and About Italian Americans" will be published every 10 weeks in 2010 with the next issue hitting the newsstands on March 20. Not only does it offer interesting articles on topics of interest to Italian Americans, it provides links to Italian American organizations, activities, and services. Chiaviello will discuss Italian influence upon aspects of American life that can be seen on a daily basis. He will also address elements of ancient Rome and the importance of an increased level of awareness on Roman history for today's school children.

Lunch will include a Roquefort Salad and an entrée choice of Grilled Salmon, Veal Champignon, or Grilled Chicken, as well as dessert treats.

Reservations are required for the luncheon and lecture. The \$35 price includes tax and gratuity. Call 239-434-3323 for a reservation.

Gracing the cover of the last issue of *Primo* is Silvana Mangano who relocated from Rome to NY and was married to Dino DeLaurentiis. She has three daughters, the oldest of whom (Veronica) is the mother of Food Network star Giada DeLaurentiis host of "Everyday Italian."

Mangano, a fine actress of exceptional beauty, made 40 movies which can be found on the *Primo* blog. And if you Google Truby Chiaviello, you will find a link to ICS as the third link of the page. Click on the link and it takes you right to the last issue of *amici*.

È forte! No?

LA NOSTRA BELLA LINGUA

a cura di Grace Mannino
Modi di dire della lingua italiana

Continuando con i modi di dire, nel numero precedente di amici si è accennato a “acqua in bocca”. Seguono alcuni altri esempi con la parola “acqua”.

• “Hai sentito quello che ha detto Francesco? Non fa senso. Quell’uomo ha il cervello in acqua!”

avere il cervello in acqua: aver perso le capacità mentali; to have lost one’s mental capabilities. Literally: to have one’s brain in water.

• “Ti prego, non ne parliamo più. Quest’argomento è ormai acqua passata.”

essere acqua passata: essere di un passato che è meglio dimenticare; to be water under the bridge. Literally: to be water that has already passed.

• “Non hanno fatto che parlare di politica tutta la serata. La politica non m’interessa e non la seguo. Ero come un pesce fuori d’acqua.”

essere come un pesce fuori d’acqua: essere fuori posto in un ambiente; to feel like a fish out of water.

• “Non credere alle apparenze. Non le ho fiducia. Questa donna lavora sott’acqua”.

lavorare sott’acqua: agire nascostamente, in segreto per il proprio scopo; to work underhandedly, secretly, for one’s benefit. Literally: to work under water.

The ICS Board of Directors’ philosophy for the 2009-2010 season was to focus on member-driven, member-run events. This proposal has met with great success and will be continued for the 2010-2011 year.

While formal Adult Language Classes will continue to be held at Naples Community School, ICS members also host discussion groups for those who would like to speak Italian on a regular basis in an informal atmosphere.

Nancy Menaldi-Scanlan, who will be assisting Ben Turri with his classes this session at NCS, hosts a group of six beginning to intermediate speakers called “**Conosciamoci**” in 90 minute sessions in her home on alternate Tuesday evenings. This enthusiastic group agrees on interest-based topics for discussion. Nancy provides a short vocabulary list for the topics so that everyone has a few points of reference.

Contact Nancy using menaldiscanlan@gmail.com for more information or to participate.

“**Parliamo di...**” a group of 10-18 fluent Italian speakers facilitated by Luisa Basile and hosted by Fil Raia at 7117 Pelican Bay Boulevard continues to meet monthly from 3-5 p.m. to discuss topics based on the ICS theme with input from the attendees. No instruction or correction is provided in this group of native and non-native Italian speakers. The group’s schedule can be found in the *amici* calendar. Contact gibasile@aol.com to learn more or to participate. **Since the accommodations are in a gated community, you must notify Luisa or Fil that you will be attending.**

Il Cinema Italiano

ICS again thanks Jed Tullet, screen writer and Italian film appassionato, for his continued willingness to introduce the remaining films in our series. Jed's insightful expertise enhances the viewing experience of our Italian films with English subtitles. His depth of knowledge is well-received by an appreciative crowd. ICS extends an apology to all who showed up to view *Divorce Italian Style* on January 22. A scheduling conflict required that the film be rescheduled for **February 16** at which time Jed was able to introduce this box office smash comedy.

Ieri, Oggi, Domani will be shown **March 2** and *Two Women* is the featured film on **April 6**. Jed will introduce both films at **7 p.m.** in the Norris Center. Reviews of both films appear on page 7 of Volume 11 Issue 1 of *amici*. As with all films shown by ICS at the **Norris Center**, a **\$5** donation is requested.

CINECITTÀ

Cinecittà, the Italian city of cinema, is a completely self-sufficient complex nine km southeast of Rome on Via Tuscolana with streets, squares, parks, studios, and all the technical departments needed for making movies. Currently there are 22 studios, 280 dressing rooms and offices, 21 make-up rooms, and a 7,000 sq. meter swimming pool.

Suggested in 1935 and approved by the Mussolini government, 40 hectares were set aside for the creation of some important structures for Italian cinema and a cinematography school for younger apprentices. 151 movies were made from 1937 until mid-April 1943 when Italy surrendered, 151 movies were made. Germans occupied the facility for the last two years of WWII using it as a detention center for Roman civilians. After the war it served for a time as a shelter for displaced person.

In 1947 the first postwar movie was produced, and Cinecittà enjoyed a resurgence when American movie productions moved in during

the 50s creating *Quo Vadis*, *Ben Hur*, *The Name of the Rose*, *Cleopatra*, to name a few, on site. For 10 years Cinecittà set trends in cinema through the work of Michelangelo Antonioni, Vittorio DeSica and the masterpieces of Federico Fellini among others.

In 1987 a huge fire destroyed some of the warehouses, costumes, scenery and stage materials; but this small city, home to approximately one million people, currently thrives with many films and television productions shot entirely on location. In 2005 Martin Scorsese filmed the movie "Gangs of New York" on the set of this facility known as Hollywood on the Tiber.

Privitization of the buildings by Cinecittà Studios SpA and the opening of a new section entirely dedicated to Digital productions have returned the studio to its competitive stature. While Cinecittà is closed to the public, it is open for tours in the summer and plays host to cinematography exhibits and concerts.

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
Treasurer: Anthony Abbate

Directors

Richard Cappalli
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