



amici

MARCH/APRIL 2012 VOLUME 13 ISSUE 3

A PUBLICATION OF THE ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY

ICS PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Sicilian Baroque in Catania – Situated on the east coast and facing the Ionian Sea, Catania is between Messina and Syracuse. It is the second largest city in Sicily and the tenth in Italy. Founded in the 8th Century, it became a flourishing cultural, artistic and political center during the Renaissance. It is known today by the nickname “European Silicon Valley.”

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>President's Perspective</i>	1
<i>ICS Calendar of Events</i>	2
<i>Editor's Note</i>	2
<i>Godfather Films, Game Theory and the Mafia Lecture</i>	3
<i>The Offering of Angels Bus Trip</i>	4
<i>Vivaldi Presentation and Lunch</i>	4
<i>Annual Meeting and Luncheon</i>	5
<i>Wine Tasting</i>	5
<i>Italian Language Classes</i>	6
<i>Il Cinema Italiano</i>	7
<i>Reservation Procedure</i>	8

Cari amici,

I am constantly reminded that we live in a community that loves and supports the Arts. In a study about the best arts towns in America, Naples was ranked number one in towns of its size. The other great attribute which we love about Naples is the friendliness and sociability of the people.

The ICS Logo contains the motto which exemplifies what this Society stands for: HISTORY, CULTURE, and FRIENDSHIP. As the new president of the Italian Cultural Society, I am grateful to be part of an organization that has a long tradition of bringing to its members social events and programs that center around Italy's contribution to the world of arts and culture.

The Planning Committee is well into the development of the programs for the coming year. We begin next year with our three traditional events: Columbus Day Lunch, Welcome Back Brunch and Christmas Dinner – all three in larger venues with beautiful settings.

Next January we will pay tribute to Verdi's 200th anniversary with *Viva Verdi*, a concert featuring his most well-known arias and music. Our regional focus for the year will be Veneto, and the committee has plans for events and performances highlighting the best that this region has to offer. We will explore Vivaldi's Venice of the 1700's, the Palaces of Palladio, the maritime history of Venice – *La Serenissima*, the art of Titian and Tintoretto, a reading of an 18th century play by Goldoni, a famous Man of Letters and contemporary of Vivaldi, and much, much more.

The Signature Event for next season will be *Carnevale*, a Masked Ball and Dinner in (what I am told will be) a “lavish setting.”

When I look at our plans for next year, I am very enthusiastic about the direction that ICS is headed. Thank you for your overwhelming support of this year's programs. I wish each of you a wonderful and culture-rich spring and look forward to seeing you March 21st for our last program event, “Vivaldi's Four Seasons: A Celebration of Spring,” at the beautiful Naples Botanical Gardens and at our Annual Meeting April 5.

Cordiali saluti,
Tom Turicchi
President

Italian Cultural Society Calendar of Events

Tuesday, March 6 "La Scorta"*

Thursday, March 8
Luncheon and Lecture

"Godfather Films, Game Theory and The Mafia"
by John Alcorn, Ph.D.

Kensington Country Club

Social **11:00 a.m.** Lecture 11:30 followed by luncheon

Thursday, March 15

Day Bus Trip

Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art

"The Offering of Angels"

Carolyn Dickinson

Arrival **9:30 a.m.** Approximate Return 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 21

Lecture and Light Lunch

"Vivaldi's Four Seasons: A Celebration of Spring"

by Tom Turicchi, Ph.D.

Naples Botanical Garden

Social: **11:00 a.m.** Presentation **11:30** followed by lunch

Tuesday, April 3 "Big Night"*

Thursday, April 5

Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Introduction to Veneto

Pelican Isle Yacht Club

11:00 a.m. Meeting Begins with Lunch to follow

Thursday, April 12

Wine Tasting

Total Wine and More

5:30-7:30 p.m.

*See page 7 for information on our film series.

ICS gratefully acknowledges the volunteer efforts of Joanne Berenato who handles reservations for all the Society's events. Joanne's job is seemingly never-ending, yet she handles it with humor and grace. Board members have jokingly reflected that if Joanne "retires," it will take three volunteers to fill her place. *Tante grazie, Joanne!*

Editor's Note

ICS programs have taken us from Rome last year to Sicily this year with events designed to delight, entertain and enlighten. Some Italians and visitors make that same trip by taking the night train from Rome to Palermo. If you are lucky enough to encounter a *siciliana* returning from the *continente* (as the Sicilians call the Italian mainland), don't be surprised if you are encouraged to participate in the tradition of eating *arancino siciliano* during the crossing of *Stretto di Messina*. While you may groan at the thought of being awakened at 2 a.m. to eat a fried rice ball resembling an orange, the chance to savor a delicious *arancino* while enjoying the shimmering lights of Reggio Calabria on one side of the ferry and those of Messina on the other will be magical.

Once you have landed, you can explore a city founded by the Phoenicians in the 8th Century and be mystified by an island that has been influenced by wave upon wave of "foreigners" over the centuries. This mixture of cultures is very much alive in modern-day Sicily. Christian churches with Arabic domes, Greek temples and theaters, Byzantine mosaics, baroque architectural adornments, Norman cathedrals and culinary surprises await your further adventurous explorations as ICS says "*Arrivederci Sicilia*" and heads for Veneto in the 2012-2013 season.

FYI:

Many regions claim to be the birthplace of *gelato*, but in fact, it seems to have spread from Sicily after being introduced there by the Arabs. Indeed, ice cream is believed to have originated from the ancient sorbet – from the Arab word "sherbet" – an invention to combat the searing heat of the desert and taken to Sicily where local ingredients were added. Sicilian ice cream is still renowned today both for its exotic flavors and for the way in which it is served, in cones or in cups but also in the middle of a brioche. Throughout Italy, ice cream is served not in scoops but with a spatula with the result being that the size and portion varies and depends on the whim of the server.

“Godfather Films, Game Theory and the Mafia”



To Be Presented March 8

John Alcorn, Principal Lecturer in Italian Studies at Trinity College in Connecticut, will present a fascinating and enlightening look at the ambiguous nature of *Cosa Nostra*, and its move from agrarian Sicily to modern, urban America. Francis Ford Coppola’s film masterpiece will serve as a backdrop for the exploration of decision-making styles and the psychology of motivations and behaviors in strategic situations. Dr. Alcorn, an expert on Italian history, society and culture, was honored in 2007 by the Connecticut General Assembly’s Italian-American Legislative Caucus Educational Fund (IALCEF) with the annual “Italian-American of the Year Award.” In 2009, he received the annual “*I Migliori* - The Best

in Mind and Deeds” award by the Pirandello Lyceum. Dr. Alcorn has been a Visiting Professor at the Universities of Palermo and Messina. He is Program Director of the Cesare Barbieri Endowment for Italian Culture.

Kensington Country Club will host the Thursday, March 8 Lecture and Luncheon featuring Dr. Alcorn. The menu includes Minestrone Soup with Garlic and Cheese Toast, Grilled Chicken and Shrimp Cobb Salad with Chianti Vinaigrette and Tiramisù.

Date: Thursday, March 8

Location: Kensington Country Club, 2700 Pine Ridge Road between Livingston and Airport Pulling

Event Chair: Ken Pedini

Social: 11 a.m. Lecture: 11:30 a.m. followed by Lunch **Price: \$25** per person

Limit: 120 members

Did You Know:

March 8 is *La Giornata Internazionale delle Donne*, and in Italy it is *La Festa delle Donne*. Men and women express their best wishes (*auguri*) to any woman encountered. Mimosa is the symbol of the day with flowers or even mimosa sprigs offered to the women in your life.

March 19 is celebrated as *La Festa del Papà* (Father’s Day) in Italy. If the mimosa is the language of flowers spoken on March 8, then the rose speaks for Italian fathers. A red rose is offered unless your father is no longer living. In such cases, the father is remembered with a white rose representing the purity of the soul. March 19 is also the feast of San Giuseppe.

Proverbi in siciliano e in italiano

U lupu perdi u pilu ma no u vizziu (siciliano). Il lupo perdi il pelo ma non il vizio (italiano).

The leopard never loses his spots.

Chiddu c’attia nun piaci, all’autri nun fari (siciliano). Quello che a te non piace, agli altri non fare (italiano).

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Nunn è tutt’oru chiddu ca luci (siciliano). Non è tutt’oro quello che luccica (italiano).

All that glitters is not gold.

The Offering of Angels Comes to Florida

ICS is pleased to announce that a bus trip to the Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art has been scheduled for March 15 for the American debut of *Il Pane degli Angeli*, a major exhibition from the Uffizi Gallery located in the heart of Florence. The famous Uffizi Gallery, one of the two most-visited museums in Italy, houses works that date to the 12th Century and is one of the oldest in the world. It is visited by 1.5 million people each year.

Paintings and tapestries from some of the greatest artists of the Renaissance and Baroque periods comprise this highly-acclaimed exhibition selected by Antonio Natali, Director of the Uffizi Gallery. The 45 selections for this exhibit, rarely seen in this region, portray scenes from the Old Testament and the life of Christ with a subject theme of forgiveness.

The fee includes transportation, museum entry, audio headset and lunch consisting of Caprese Salad, Calamari, Choice of Four Entrees and Dessert.

The bus will depart from North Collier Regional Park, 15000 Livingston Road (between Immokalee and Vanderbilt) at 9:30 a.m. and will return at approximately 6 p.m.

Reservations can be made through the event chair and secured with a check made payable to ICS with a notation that specifies "Bus Trip" on the check. Please list the names of all in your party and a phone number when making your reservations with Carolyn Dickinson at 594-9991

Date: Thursday, March 15

Location: Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art Exhibit Bus Trip

Event Chair: Carolyn Dickinson at 594-9991

Departure: 9:30 a.m. Collier Regional Park **Price: \$75** per person inclusive

Bus Capacity: 55

Proverbio in siciliano e in italiano

Nun si vivi ri sulu pani (siciliano). Non si vive di solo pane (italiano).
Man cannot live on bread alone.

"Vivaldi's Four Seasons: A Celebration of Spring"

Naples Botanical Garden will serve as the backdrop for Tom Turicchi's March 21st presentation of what has become one of the most popular pieces of classical music in the world. Recorded more than 150 times, *The Four Seasons* has regularly been heard in television advertising and as film music. Yet most people never realize that Vivaldi was writing "program music." Tom, our own ICS President with a Ph.D. in musicology from the Catholic University of America, will explore the music and the sonnets which were used in the first edition to see how each illuminates the other. The main focus of the presentation; however, will be to bask in Vivaldi's glorious music portraying Spring in Italy.

Date: Wednesday, March 21

Location: Naples Botanical Garden

Event Chair: Tom Turicchi

Social: 11 a.m. Presentation: 11:30 followed by "Light" Lunch **Price: \$25** per person

Limit: 140

Annual Meeting and Luncheon

The Annual Meeting of ICS will be held on Thursday, April 5 at Pelican Isle Yacht Club at 11:00 a.m. All members are invited and strongly encouraged to attend this informational meeting. PIYC is the only private island club in Naples and provides a luxurious setting located on the water at Wiggins Pass. It boasts a great chef, too.

Agenda items will include a review of our Society's financial and membership operations, as well as preliminary program planning for the 2012-2013 Season. The Nominating Committee will present a slate of proposed Directors. Prior to the close of the meeting, members can participate in a Q and A.

A special presentation by the "Language Ladies" will entertain you after lunch.

Date: Thursday, April 5

Location: Pelican Isle Yacht Club at 410 Dockside Drive, Naples. Take Tamiami Trail North to Wiggins Pass (1.4 miles north of Immokalee). Left on Wiggins Pass (County Road 888) for 1 mile. Left on Vanderbilt 0.1 mile and Right onto Dockside 0.1 mile.

Event Chair: Sue Luconi

Time: 11:00 a.m. Meeting Begins with Lunch to follow **Price: \$22** per person Limit: 80 members

Wine Tasting Slated For April 12

To launch the 2012-2013 ICS Season featuring the Veneto region, ICS will host a wine tasting with offerings from the renowned area of north-eastern Italy. Famous for Amarone, Bardolino and superb Pinot Grigios, Veneto is the foremost region of Italy in terms of quality and quantity of wine produced. Its growers are the most modernized in the country and the biggest DOC producers of the three highly productive Italian regions.

ICS Wine Tastings are lead by the wine experts on staff at Total Wine and More after they have undergone extensive training here and abroad. Tyler, the wine expert for this evening's presentation, will introduce and discuss the selections for our samplings. Hors d'oeuvres will be provided by Susan, proprietor of the local catering company of the same name.



Date: Thursday, April 12

Location: Total Wine and More, Carillon Place on Pine Ridge at Airport Pulling in the Plaza with OfficeMax and Steak 'N Shake

Event Chair: Richard Cappalli

Time: 5:30-7:30 p.m. **Price: \$30**

Limit: 30 members Reserve Early!

There is an Italian legend called *I Giorni della Vecchia* (The Old Woman's Day) or *Giorni Imprestati* (Borrowed Days). Once upon a time, the legend goes, March had only 28 days. On the last day of March, an old woman, anticipating the warmth of spring, decided to take her sheep into the field. As she headed out, she mockingly said, "March, you can't do me any more harm because it's already April." March was offended and asked April if he could borrow three days which he would use to punish the old woman in an extra spell of winter.

Marzo tinge e aprile dipinge
March stains and April paints

Italian Language Classes Conclude in March

*A*dult Language Classes, sponsored by ICS and held at the Community School of Naples at 13275 Livingston Road (just north of Pine Ridge) on Wednesdays throughout the season, will end on March 28-bringing to a close our most successful year to date.

During the Winter Session, we welcomed Robert Lundry and Joan Hoffmeister, two experienced Italian teachers with impressive credentials, to our talented team as the demands for our Italian I classes grew. We close out the season with kudos to them, Grace Mannino and Nancy Menaldi-Scanlan. These wonderful instructors handle their duties with humor, style and professionalism. *Grazie a tutti!*

For the Spring Session beginning February 22, we added a new class for those not quite ready to jump into conversational situations. ***Pathways to Conversation*** is designed to build confidence in speaking Italian for those with Italian III (or the equivalent) experience who are ready to move from basic phrases to conversation. If well-attended, this class can be added to our language program as a regular offering. Consider it if you have the skill sets covered in our Italian I, II and III course book, *Berlitz 5 Minute Italian* (ISBN # 978-981-268-625-1), available at Barnes & Noble in Naples. If you are a bit shy about speaking Italian, this is the course for you!

We would also like to offer an ***Advanced Conversation*** course in the future. Please feel free to contact Donna Lenzi, the Adult Language Program Coordinator, to provide feedback or express an interest in an advanced, thematic course of study with a focus (for example: history, art, literature, films, cuisine, poetry, Italian holidays/traditions). This course would be for those who are ready to move beyond our current Intermediate Conversation class. You need not be a native speaker to participate, but you will need to have the skill sets of an advanced speaker of the language. To provide your input about this class, contact Donna at lenzidonna@gmail.com.

If you are considering an Italian I class for the next session, Fall 2012, please enroll early as this class fills quickly, and there is always a wait list. The tentative start date for the Fall Session is October 31. One need not be a member of ICS to take classes with us, but members receive a special price of \$60 per session. If you have a friend who would like to join you in your intellectual pursuits, extend an invitation. You will find complete, updated information about all our course offerings in the October/November/December issue of *amici*.

PLEASE NOTE: To avoid any confusion, be aware that you are not enrolled in any of our classes unless you contact the program coordinator and receive confirmation of your course and room assignment.

For those without email, Donna can be reached at 330-606-8822.

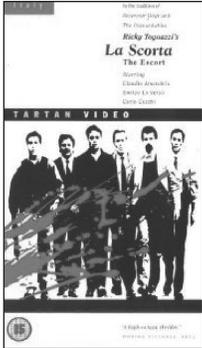
ICS extends a nod of gratitude to Nancy Menaldi-Scanlan who has graciously provided a brief introduction to our film selections this year. Nancy, Richard Delfino and Peter Scianna selected the films based not only on their merit and awards but on their content and appeal. Nancy modestly has stated that she is not qualified to critique film production but focuses on what the films have to offer us in terms of appreciating Italian culture, language, customs, history or the Italian way of living. *Tante grazie, Nancy!* See page 7 for film information.

Il Cinema Italiano

All films are shown on Tuesday evenings in the auditorium of the Norris Community Center at 755 8th Avenue South in downtown Naples.

Parking is limited in the **Norris parking lot**, but **off-site parking** is available near the **Tennis Center**. Plan to arrive early and socialize with ICS friends.

A **\$5.00 donation** is requested. Doors open at **6:30 p.m.** with film at **7:00 p.m.**



Tuesday, March 6 – La Scorta. This 1993 thriller directed by Ricky Tognazzi is based on a true story of uncommon courage. A high profile judge and his bodyguard are brutally assassinated in 70s era Sicily, and four reluctant, young cops are assigned as *la scorta* to protect his replacement. They find themselves outgunned, outnumbered and the targets of corrupt killers in the government.

Winner of five 1993 David di Donatello awards including Best Director and Best Cinematography and the Grand Prix winner at the Cognac Detective Film Festival.

92 minutes

Italian with English subtitles.

Tuesday, April 3 – Big Night. Stanley Tucci and Campbell Scott won international acclaim for this 50s era, character-driven piece about two strong-willed brothers from Abruzzo who own a failing restaurant in the seaside resort of Keyport, New Jersey. Tucci plays *Secondo*, the manager of *Paradise* who is quickly adapting to his new life, in what is said to be one of the great “food movies” of all time. Tony Shalhoub as *Primo*, the consummate master chef and uncompromising purist, desires to teach Americans about “real Italian food” and doesn’t mind calling customers “Philistines” when they order spaghetti and meatballs. Love and respect, cultural encounters and the immigrant experience play out as the passion for food and life serve as a metaphor for the struggle of the independent artist against the establishment. Isabella Rossellini and Minnie Driver round out the cast for this American film produced in 1996.



Winner of New York Film Festival Critics Circle Award and the Boston Society of Film Critics Award for Best New Director.

109 minutes

Primarily in English with some Italian language subtitled in English.

David di Donatello

Italy has its own equivalent of the Academy Awards Ceremony and the Oscar. Since 1955 *L'Accademia del Cinema Italiano* has awarded the “David di Donatello” for cinematic performances and production. While other awards in Italy existed for decades (ex.: the Silver Ribbons), they had been voted on by film critics and journalists. The “Davids” are awarded by screenwriters, performers, technicians, and producers. The bronze statue, depicting Donatello’s David, is Italy’s premiere film award.

The Award Ceremonies were held at the Greek Theatre in Taormina, then twice in Florence, finally returning to Rome with the support of the President of the Republic and with collaboration of the Rome City Council Cultural Policies Department.

Taormina continues to host the historic Taormina Film Fest, Italy’s oldest film festival.

Reservation Procedure

Information Line: 239-434-3323 for information.

To Pay By Check: For single events, be sure to write the name of the event on the check and mail check to:

**Italian Cultural Society
1100 Fifth Ave. South Suite 201
Naples, FL 34102**

To Pay By Check with a Reservation Form: Download the Reservation Form from the ICS website and mail it with your check to the above address. We encourage you to use the Reservation Form and make multiple reservations using one check. All reservations will receive confirmation of payment received. Please note that we will continue the long-standing policy that a reservation is only valid when the check is received.

ICS can no longer accept credit card reservations on the Reservation Line.

To Pay By Credit Card: Credit card payments will be accepted through our website using Pay Pal. Your reservation will be confirmed.

Cancellation Policy: NO Refunds will be given for cancellations made within four days of the event.

Membership Information: ICS membership year: October 1-September 30. Please submit dues no later than November 1 to be included in and receive an updated directory. Dues are \$60 for couples and \$35 for individuals. Dues may be submitted at any time but must be received by Nov. 1 for inclusion in the directory. Dues received after April 1 will be credited to the following year. Name badges are \$10 and will be mailed to all new members upon receipt of dues and badge fee. Members are requested to wear name badges at all events. Membership forms are available at all events and online. www.italianculturalsociety.com

Italian Cultural Society

of Naples, Florida, Inc.

www.italianculturalsociety.com

Phone: 239-434-3323

Italian Cultural Society Officers

President: Tom Turicchi

First Vice President: Jean DiPierro

Second Vice President: Richard Cappalli

Second Vice President: Donna Lenzi

Treasurer: Richard Delfino

Secretary: Grace Mannino

Directors

Vic DiBartlo

Fred Luconi

Sue Luconi

Joe Martin

Ken Pedini

Peter Scianna

President Emeritus: Joseph Delfino

Directors Emeritus: Anthony Abbate and Edith Coleman

amici Editor: Donna Lenzi

lenzidonna@gmail.com