

ICS PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



"When the Colosseum stands, Rome shall stand; when the Colosseum falls, Rome shall fall; when Rome falls, the world shall fall."
The Venerable Bede, 8th century

Cari amici,

The bright, sunny, warm days and sometimes humid weather of summer are coming to an end. The "snowbirds" are beginning to see bright red, orange and yellow colors of Fall. Their packing has started as they get ready to make their way to Florida. As the Fall season arrives it signals the beginning of a new ICS season of events and programs for the members of the Italian Cultural Society of Naples, FL.

To start our season there will be a **Columbus Day Luncheon** on Monday October 12, 2009.

Our **Welcome Back Brunch** will be held on

Sunday, November 15, 2009 where we will present the full calendar of events for the season. Your Board of Directors and Program Committee have been working hard to plan this year's programs with a focus on the region of Lazio and especially Roma. Special events will include lectures on Ancient Rome, the Vatican Museum, Roman art of the Renaissance and Baroque Periods, and Roman Mythology, as well as

two musical performances – including a very special appearance by Cristiana Pegoraro of Italia on piano **March 11, 2010**. ICS will continue to offer Italian language classes for adults and our cinema series at the **Norris Center**.

To learn more about our events, see the ICS Calendar in this issue.

PLEASE NOTE WHEN MAKING RESERVATIONS FOR THIS YEAR'S PROGRAMS WE HAVE A NEW RESERVATION NUMBER **239-434-3323**.

I am very pleased to report to you that the Membership Survey conducted this past Winter and Spring had more than 25% of the membership responding. You, the members, were very supportive of the programs and events. Your top priority suggestions were for programs focused on music/opera events; lectures on history with information on art, architecture, literature, music and the formation of Italy. The "Regions of Italy" luncheons and dinners, in combination with wine tasting, ranked high in the survey. Most respondents indicated the importance of our language, and the idea of having a presentation or a series on the origins of the language and the proverbs and their meaning.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>President's Perspective</i>	1
<i>Christopher Columbus Luncheon</i>	2
<i>Welcome Back Brunch</i>	3
<i>Christmas Dinner</i>	3
<i>Robb and Stucky Luncheon</i>	3
<i>La Nostra Bella Lingua</i>	4
<i>ICS Calendar of Events</i>	5
<i>Il Cinema Italiano</i>	6
<i>Reservation Procedure</i>	8

One concern that most members mentioned is the cost of events, indicating the importance of our program committee presenting events that balance quality and value over a range of prices.

Many single members prefer daytime events versus evening and offered an idea of car-pooling for evening events.

I offer my gratitude to the survey committee members: Nick Nappi, Jean DiPierro, and Richard Cappalli for their excellent effort in conducting the survey. And also, I offer our gratitude to the many members who took the time to respond to the survey. You will see over time that your input is shaping the future of our Society.

This Fall issue of **amici** begins an important change in the way we communicate to our members. As you know it is very expensive to do printed material and mailings. Last year we announced that over the next two years we would increase our use of the web-site and e-mail as the main means of communication. Over 75% of our membership use e-mail and the remainder do not use electronic communication. For those members we will continue to provide printed material and mail to their requested address. A limited supply of printed **amici** will be available at the **Welcome Back Brunch**.

In this mailing, you will find **amici**, the calendar of events for the season, the latest printed ICS Membership Directory, and your dues renewal form. Future issues of **amici** and any additions or changes to the calendar will be posted on the web-site for the 2009-2010 season. This will save the Society over \$2000 and allow us to hold the dues at the current level. For the next two years we will do one mailing in September similar to this year and then use web-site or email for future communications. Thank you for your support as we make this transition to using electronic communication media.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our Welcome Back Brunch.

Cordiali saluti,
Adam Crescenzi
President, Italian Cultural Society of Naples

Christopher Columbus

After being rejected by John II of Portugal twice and Isabella and Ferdinand of Spain once, Columbus lobbied for two years to get the final consent of the Spanish Crown for his first voyage which was partially funded by private Italian investors.

While historians acknowledge that Columbus was not the first to find the Americas he was the one who brought the Americas to the forefront of Western attention. He has been honored since colonial times in the Americas and in Spain.

In 1909 his descendants dismantled the family chapel in Spain and moved it to State College in Pennsylvania. It may be visited by the public, and the museum attached to the chapel has relics of note including the arm chair used by "The Admiral of the Ocean Sea," the title bestowed on Columbus by Isabella and Ferdinand.



ICS Christopher Columbus Luncheon

Please join ICS in celebrating the extraordinary perseverance and amazing accomplishments of Christopher Columbus at a luncheon to be held at **Capriccio of Naples** 2344 Pine Ridge Road and Airport Road (near Target) on **October 12** from **12:30 to 2:00 p.m.** Entrée choice of Chicken Francese or Eggplant Parmigiana will be accompanied by salad, pasta, garlic rolls. Cost: **\$15** per person prepaid by Visa or MasterCard on the new ICS reservation line (239)434-3323. Cash bar with premium wines and beer. To ensure your reservation, call **before October 7**. No refunds after Oct. 10 for this special event.

Welcome Back Brunch

The Plantation Club Restaurant at The Dunes

At the Corner of Vanderbilt Drive and Bluebill Avenue

Sunday, November 15 at 11 a.m. – \$18

Please join us for a repeat of last year's sellout **Welcome Back Brunch at The Dunes**. The buffet style luncheon offers a bounty of delights to enjoy while catching up with acquaintances and making new friends. President, Adam Crescenzi, will present the 2009-2010 events planned for our 11th season and introduce new members. A special "fly over video" covering all of Italy will be shown during the luncheon to provide inspiration for conversation.

Christmas Dinner

Pelican Isle Yacht Club – Tuesday, December 8, Cocktails 6 p.m, Dinner 7 p.m.

410 Dockside Drive in Naples

Join friends and fellow ICS members for an Italian Christmas celebration at the exclusive Pelican Isle Yacht Club. The evening will begin with a stand up cocktail hour featuring hot and cold antipasti followed by a three course sit down dinner in the dining room. Cocktail hour begins at 6 with a cash bar, and dinner will be presented at **7 p.m.** Cost for the evening festivities is **\$65** per person. Book early as last year's event sold out quickly. Attendance will be limited to 100. Don't miss this special evening.

Pelican Isle Yacht Club is off Vanderbilt just below Wiggins Pass Road. The gate attendant will direct you

Robb and Stucky Luncheon Cooking Demonstration



Mark your calendars now and plan to share the food and fun at the Robb and Stucky Luncheon Cooking Demonstration on **January 11**. Chef Kristina San Filippo will concentrate on the Lazio region with emphasis on Roman cuisine. The foods and presentation will feature recipes that highlight the ecological and sustainable food sources, a prime element to the Italian way of life-preserving their local farms and producers. Chef Kristina will present two savory courses, one fish and one meat, for our enjoyment; as well as regional cheese with fruit as the dessert course.

The "slow food movement," which originated in Italy, will be the framework for demonstrating the recipes. Chef Kristina will share information about local shops and farms that carry excellent quality foods while inspiring our own creativity with tips and techniques.

Reserve early as this class is limited to 45 attendees. Price is **\$43** per person and is all inclusive.

La Nostra Bella Lingua

The Italian Cultural Society offers Italian Language classes for adults at The Community School in Naples, Building N, 2nd Floor. Classes provide opportunities for using our beautiful language at various levels. Consider taking a class from our dedicated teaching professionals. If you are uncertain about which class may be right for you, request a "sit in" with one of the instructors to determine the perfect place for your skill level. Classes are \$60 for 6 sessions. Contact Ben Turri 239-254-1155 for information and placement. Classes begin October 28th.

Italian 1 is offered in the Fall Session and provides practice with pronunciation and critical sounds while learning greetings, small talk, shopping, eating out, and finding one's way around.

Italian 2 is offered in the Winter Session and increases the complexity of conversational situations. Grammar and introduction of past tense presented in the context of conversations.

Italian 3 is offered in the Spring Session and builds on Levels 1 and 2. Introduction of imperfect tense and irregular verbs with greater student participation in conversational dialogues is featured.

Italian 1, 2 and 3 use the book *Conversational Italian in 7 Days*.

Italian 4/Beginning Conversation relies on the elements learned in Italian 1, 2 and 3 as students converse, read, and review written exercise prepared by the instructor to reinforce vocabulary, culture, structural and syntactical knowledge.

Italian 5/Intermediate Conversation uses the student's acquired knowledge for bringing

discussions of a thematic, literary and cultural nature to a higher level. Varied topics will be provided by the professor. Students will prepare oral assignments at home for more confident class discussions. Student input will create impromptu conversation in a natural setting.

For those fluent in Italian, both native and non-native Italian speakers, ICS offers a conversational group called "**Parliamo di...**" that meets four or five times each season.

As the name implies, the group gathers and talks about things of interest to them. No instruction or correction is provided, and the topics of interest are chosen by the group. The first meeting of "Parliamo di..." will be hosted by Filomena Raia on November 8th at 7117 Pelican Bay Blvd. Please contact Luisa Basile at 239-948-3707 or glbasile@aol.com if you plan to attend. As a courtesy, please contact Luisa if you have made a reservation but will be unable to attend. "Parliamo di.." is free of charge to ICS members.

Nancy Menaldi-Scanlon has been given Board approval to form a new group which will meet in her home in the Parkshore area of Naples every two weeks to speak Italian at the advanced beginner or intermediate conversational level.

"Conosciamoci" would begin in **January** with 1-1/2 hour sessions. Under consideration: Monday/Tuesday evening or Saturday/Sunday afternoon sessions. Day and time of the sessions will be determined by the group. If you are interested in participating in "Conosciamoci" contact Nancy at menaldiscanlon@gmail.com by **October 15**. "Conosciamoci" is free of charge to ICS members.

Watch for "La Nostra Bella Lingua" in each issue of *amici* as Dr. Grace Mannino, one of the Adult Language instructors, introduces some unique expressions in our beautiful language.

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.

- October 12** Columbus Day Luncheon
- October 28** ICS Adult Italian Classes begin at The Community School (see page 4 for info)
- November 3** *Golden Door*
- November 8** "Parliamo di..." at 7117 Pelican Bay Blvd. from **3-5 p.m.**
- November 15** Welcome Back Brunch **11 a.m.**
The Dunes Plantation Club Restaurant
Italy Video "Parliamo di..." **3-5 p.m.**
Location to be announced
- December 1** *Days and Clouds*
- December 8** Christmas Dinner with Cocktails at **6 p.m** and Dinner at **7 p.m.**
Pelican Isle Yacht Club
- January 5** *Che Peccato Sia Una Canaglia*
- January 10** "Parliamo di..." **3-5 p.m.**
Location to be announced
- January 11** **Robb and Stucky** Luncheon demonstration
- January 19** *Divorce Italian Style*
- January 20** Wine reception at **Antinori Arsenault Fine Arts Gallery**
Lecture on featured Italian Artists
- February 2** *La Dolce Vita*
- February 9** The Strand Luncheon at **11 a.m.**
Presentation by
Rev. Fr. Mark Haydu, LC
Office for the Patrons of the Arts Vatican Museum
- February 16** *Stanno Tutti Bene*
- February 25** Professor Franco Mormondo (TBA)
- February 28** "Parliamo di..." **3-5 p.m.**
Location 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 at Pelican Bay**
- March 21** "Parliamo di..." **3-5 p.m.**
Location to be announced
- March 29** Luncheon at **Sam-Bucco's Restaurant**
"Primo" magazine editor presentation:
Italian Influences on American Life
- April 6** *Two Women*
- April 11** "Parliamo di..."

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



NOVEMBER 3rd – Golden Door

A masterpiece of concept, writing, directing, acting, and cinematography, *La Porte D'Or* is a radiantly beautiful film offering a mirror for viewing the history of immigration in America. Writer/director Emanuele Crialesi has given us not only a deeply moving story, he has provided a touchstone for viewers to re-visit the history of each of our origins: with the exception of Native Americans, we all entered America as “foreigners” at some point in our histories and it is humbling to view this film with that fact in mind.

Starring Filippo Pucillo, Ernesto Mihieux, Ilaria Giorgino, Isabella Ragonese, Natale Russo



DECEMBER 1st – Days and Clouds

A brilliant film written and directed with immaculate attention to detail by Silvio Soldini (*Bread and Tulips*) who recreates the global financial nightmare in the form of an examination of one family's fracture and consequences. It resonates despite the depressing story, offering a glimpse into the universal tie that binds us all at this moment. The cinematography by Ramiro Cirita and the musical score blending pera and folk music by Giovanni Venosta enhance the motion of the film which is just under two hours but seems more succinct.

Starring Margherita Buy and Antonio Albanese



January 5th – Peccato Che Sia Una Canaglia

This 1954 film directed by Alessandro Blasetti stars Marcello Mastroianni as the cab driver, Paolo, who finds himself smitten by the beautiful, then 20 year old, Sophia Loren playing Lina, whose life and family are on the wrong side of the law. Vittorio De Sica rounds out the cast as Lina's father. The tangled web only serves to make Lina all the more appealing to Paolo who concludes that matrimony rather than police custody is the way to “tame” la bella donna.

Released in America as *Too Bad She's Bad*, *Peccato Che Sia Una Canaglia* marks the first time Loren is paired with her frequent film partner, Mastroianni. They would eventually go on to make 13 films together.



January 19th – Divorce Italian Style

This box office bonanza gave Marcello Mastroianni an Oscar nod for his performance as Ferdinando Cefalu' who would love to unload his demanding, sex-starved, unappealing wife Rosalia, played by Daniela Rocca. Divorce is illegal in Italy in 1962 when the film was set, but Ferdinando can kill his wife and get off with a light sentence IF he can catch her committing adultery. Ah, the challenge of finding a man to cuckold Ferdinando!

Divorce Italian Style, a delightful comedy directed by Pietro Germi, not only cleaned up at the box office financially, it also won several international film awards.

All films shown at 7 p.m. at the Norris Center in Naples — \$5 donation is requested.



February 2nd – *La Dolce Vita*

Religious icons in the midst of “modern” morality and an emerging mass-consumption lifestyle keep Marcello Mastroianni, a 50s journalist covering tabloid news in Rome, busy for the seven days in his life that this Federico Fellini film captures. Yvonne Furneaux, Anouk Aimeé, and Anita Ekberg are the women who have turned his head if not his heart.

Perceived by the Catholic Church as a parody of Christ’s second coming, this film was condemned by the Vatican newspaper, *L’Osservatore Romano*. Subject to widespread censorship, the film was banned in Spain until 1975 after the death of Franco.



February 16th – *Stanno Tutti Bene*

Widower Matteo Scuro, a retired Sicilian bureaucrat, decides to visit each of his five children on the mainland only to find none of them as he had imagined. This 1991 Giuseppe Tornatore film is a veritable travelogue across contemporary Italy as Marcello Mastroianni, playing Matteo, journeys to Napoli, Roma, Firenze, Milano, and Turino. He returns home, visits his wife’s grave, and reports, “Everybody’s fine”.



March 2nd – *Ieri, Oggi, Domani*

Ieri, oggi, domani is a 1963 comedy film by Italian director Vittorio de Sica and producer Carlo Ponti, starring Sophia Loren and Marcello Mastroianni. The film consists of three short stories about couples in different parts of Italy.

In the first story, Loren plays a woman who avoids jail time by purposely staying pregnant, with the help of her willing husband (Mastroianni); in the second story, the duo is cast in the roles of clandestine lovers who are forced to work out their problems in a car; in the last story, Loren is a hooker who recruits the help of one of her johns (Mastroianni) as she helps a young neighbor back to seminary.

The film won a 1964 Golden Globe, 1965 Academy Award for Best Foreign Film and BAFTA Award for Best Foreign Actor.



April 6th – *Two Women*

La Ciociara, roughly translated as *The Woman from Ciociaria*, is a film Americans recognize as “*Two Women*”. Carlo Ponti produced a stark movie from the neo-realism school that still packs a solid punch. Sophia Loren plays a beautiful widow who seeks to protect her teenager from the ravages of World War II Rome. She’s proud, opinionated, but protective and loving toward her daughter, Rosetta played by Eleonora Brown. The two women flee to the widow’s village, where they meet an idealistic young man, Jean-Paul Belmondo, to whom they are both attracted. The tragic events occur quite late in the action when we have come to know the characters well, making the film extremely powerful.

Vittorio De Sica directed this adaptation from the novel by Alberto Moravia, and Loren turns in a fine performance as do all the actors in this 1960 war drama.

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 Fax: 239-353-1842

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