



amici

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2011 VOLUME 13 ISSUE 1

A PUBLICATION OF THE ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY

ICS PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



La Madonna della Lettera stands in the Port of Messina blessing the city. Legend has it that Mary encouraged a delegation of locals during their visit with her in Palestine in 42 AD and sent back a letter tied with a strand of her hair. In 1934 Pope Pius XI unveiled and illuminated the statue from Vatican City with a remote controlled device invented by Guglielmo Marconi.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>President's Perspective</i>	1
<i>Important Notice</i>	2
<i>ICS Calendar of Events</i>	3
<i>Columbus Day Luncheon</i>	4
<i>Welcome Back Brunch</i>	4
<i>Festa Natalizia</i>	5
<i>Opera in the Afternoon</i>	5
<i>Italian Language Classes</i>	6
<i>Il Cinema Italiano</i>	7
<i>Reservation Procedure</i>	8

Cari amici,

Summer is over and we welcome everyone to the 2011 – 2012 season of the Naples ICS. At the April meeting, the Board elected new officers and I will serve as president for the next two years. I am grateful for the trust the Board has placed in me and mindful of the legacy of fine work that has gone before me. On behalf of the entire Board, I wish to thank our past president, Adam Crescenzi, for his service to our organization and for the robust condition of the Society at the time of this transition.

We move forward fully aware that the Society's Mission is the reason we exist. The role of the president is to be sure that the Mission is defined in clear terms and to see that the Mission is converted into specific actions. The stated purpose of our society *"is to bring together all persons who share a common interest in and appreciation of Italian culture."* Regarding the word "culture" there are over 160 definitions of the term. The word itself has a classical origin in the writings of Cicero. He wrote about "cultura animi" using an agricultural metaphor to describe a process of cultivating or growing the soul, for him the highest ideal for human development. Continuing this metaphor, in today's context it is defined as *"pertaining to the cultivation of knowledge and taste in the fine arts and humanities."* The Society founders were very clear in their intentions as to how we should accomplish this...we are to "sponsor programs related to various aspects of Italian culture including: the Italian language, visual and performing arts, film, travel, history and social events such as luncheons and dinners..."

To that end the Program Committee and volunteers have been at work all summer, organizing, negotiating, and filling out pesky forms for the Treasurer to put together next season's programs and events. You will find the calendar in this issue so you can plan your participation in these events. This year our regional focus will be **Sicily**. I know you will find the programs both interesting and entertaining. In addition to the 8 films in our series, we will present our traditional luncheons, an informative lecture series, a Christmas dinner, and our annual regional dinner for your enjoyment.

continued on page 2

President's Letter continued from page 1

Leonard Bernstein is quoted as saying, "to achieve great things, two things are needed: a plan and not enough time." With both of these elements in place, I have great confidence that this year will be memorable. I am eagerly looking forward to seeing you at our programs this coming season. The Committee has assembled an awesome line up of events for you.

Warm Regards,
Tom Turicchi
President

Important Notice for our Members

ICS can no longer accept credit card reservations on our phone line.

Recent changes to the Credit Card Data Security Standards stipulate that our organization can no longer store your credit card data or process credit card payments without elaborate security measures. Penalties for non-compliance could result in exorbitant fines that would be catastrophic for ICS.

As a result of these changes, members will have two options for making reservations and payments. Credit card charges can be made with PayPal on the ICS website. If you prefer to pay by check, feel free to use the website to download a Reservation Form to mail with your check to our new address.

If you do not wish to use the website for reservations, call our Information Line to place your reservation and mail your check to *our new address*.

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

These changes not only bring ICS into compliance with the new regulations but greatly increase the security of your credit card information. Additionally, ICS will be protected from legal liabilities pertaining to credit card security.

Please see page 8 of this issue for Reservation Information or call 239-434-3323 if you have questions.

From The Editor's Desk

The new, eye-catching *amici* masthead is making its debut with this issue of our newsletter. Arlene Diorio, designer of the ICS logo that you have seen in print in recent years, was approached for her input in the efforts to refresh and redefine our look. An accomplished sculptor and painter, Arlene has exhibited at several venues in New York including Soho Gallery, Lever House and Cork Gallery of Lincoln Center. In 1998 she was chosen *Artist in Residence* at the semester-abroad program University of Georgia in Cortona, Italy. *Naples Illustrated Magazine* featured her sketches from her stay in a small, Italian village in its February 2006 edition. Arlene is married to Ron Diorio, an original ICS Board Member, and she has been active in the Society since its inception.

For the masthead revisions Arlene combined talents with Donna Lenzi, *amici* editor, and Ann and Tom Cardamone of TCA Graphics to create an aesthetically pleasing, balanced, fresh look. Tom, an award winning artist in his own rite, was featured in Volume 12 Issue 3 of *amici* for his accomplishments.

Mille grazie!

Italian Cultural Society Calendar of Events

Monday, October 10

Columbus Day Luncheon and Lecture

"Verdi: The Music of the Unification"

by Tom Turicchi, Ph.D.

Molino's Ristorante

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

Tuesday, November 1 "*Ciao, Professore!*"*

Sunday, November 13

Welcome Back Brunch Buffet

"Introducing Sicily and Its People" by Ron Diorio
and "The Normans in Sicily" by Dr. Ken Pedini

The Dunes at The Plantation Club

Social **10:30 a.m.**

Presentation **11:00** followed by brunch

Sunday, December 4

Festa Natalizia

Kensington Country Club

Cocktails **6:00 p.m.**

Dinner and Music to follow.

Tuesday, December 6 "*Io Non Ho Paura*"*

Tuesday, January 3 "*Malèna*"*

Tuesday, January 10

Musical Performance

"Operas in the Afternoon: Bellini to Puccini"

First Congregational Church of Naples

Performance **3:00 p.m.**; Wine and Cheese to follow

Sunday, January 15

UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Sicily Lecture

Stonebridge Country Club

Lecture by Edith Coleman at **1:00 p.m.**

Tuesday, January 17 "*Night of The Shooting Stars*"*

Wednesday, January 25

General Meeting Luncheon and Lecture

"Mosaic Art in Sicily" by Carol Jonson

Country Club of Naples

Social **11a.m.**; Lecture **11:30** followed by lunch

Thursday, February 2

Luncheon and Lecture

"Sicily: The Arabs' Paradise" by Gaetano Cipolla, Ph.D.

Tiburòn Golf Club

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

Tuesday, February 7 "*The Sicilian Girl*"*

Friday, February 10

Cena Siciliana – Annual Regional Dinner

The Club at Pelican Bay

Prosecco and antipasti **6 p.m.**

followed by dinner and entertainment

Tuesday, February 21 "*Baaria*"*

Wednesday, February 22

Lecture

"The Role of the Chorus in Italian Opera"

by Gordon Greene, Ph.D.

Stonebridge Country Club

Lecture **1:00 p.m.**

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 lunch

Thursday, March 15

Bus Trip to The Art Museum of Ft. Lauderdale

"Offerings of Angels" Exhibit

Wednesday, March 21

Buffet Lunch and Lecture

"The Four Seasons by Antonio Vivaldi"

by Tom Turicchi, Ph.D.

Naples Garden Club

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

Tuesday, April 3 "*Big Night*"*

Thursday, April 5

Annual Meeting Luncheon

Introduction to Veneto

Pelican Isle Yacht Club

Social **11:00 a.m.**

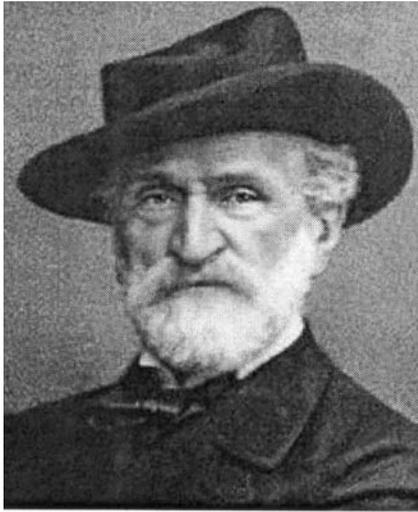
Presentation **11:30** followed by lunch

*See page 7 for information on our film series.

Call early for reservations! 239-434-3323

amici

Columbus Day Luncheon



Giuseppe Verdi
1813-1901
Italian "Romantic" Composer

Our annual kick-off to the ICS season has a slightly different twist this year as president Tom Turicchi treats us to a brief discussion of *"Verdi and the Music of the Risorgimento"* before lunch. Tom, who holds a Ph.D. in music history from Catholic University in Washington, D.C., will focus on Nabucco, the wildly successful opera that put Verdi on the map. The *"Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves"* from that work, associated with nationalists and those dedicated to Italian unification in the 1850s, has become a second national anthem.

Molino's Owner, Kunnucio (Kenny) Pursico was traveling in Italy at press time, but promised to provide an exciting menu for our annual celebration. Check the website or Information Line for options and specify menu choice when making your reservation. Vegetarian meal is available upon request.

Date: Monday, October 10

Location: Molino's Ristorante, 28641 South Bay Drive #159 in The Promenade, Bonita Springs

Event chair: Joe Crivelli

Social: 11:00 Brief Talk: 11:30 followed by lunch

Price: \$25 includes tax and gratuity

A Columbus Day Riddle from Grace Mannino, ICS Adult Language Instructor:

Essere l'uovo di Colombo

Essere una soluzione semplice ma a cui nessuno aveva mai pensato.

Welcome Back Brunch

Come catch up with old acquaintances and form new bonds of friendship at the Welcome Back Brunch featuring a bountiful buffet on the lanai at The Dunes. ICS members Ron Diorio and Ken Pedini will once again delight us with humorous and insightful presentations on *"Sicily and Its People"* and *"The Normans"* as we feast on all the favorites that were such a hit at last year's sell out event. You will be able to order individually charged cocktails at this beautiful venue.

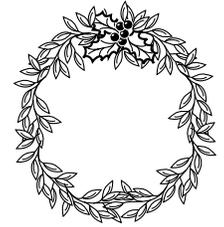
Date: Sunday, November 13

Location: Plantation Restaurant at The Dunes, at the corner of Vanderbilt and BlueBill Drive, Naples

Event Chair: Jean DiPierro

Social: 10:30 Presentation: 11:00 followed by brunch

Price: \$20 includes tax and gratuity



Festa Natalizia

ICS Members will again ring in the holiday season with a festive Christmas celebration at the exclusive Kensington Country Club. Come enjoy a cocktail hour featuring passed hors d'oeuvres followed by a three-course dinner. Naples resident Jason DeSimone, owner and DJ at Groovestyle Entertainment, will provide the music for your enjoyment.

The Culinary Team headed by Chef David Lenio will offer *Frittelle di Zucca* (Pumpkin Fritters) and *Crocchette di Capelli D'Angelo* (Angel Hair Pasta Croquettes with Cheese) followed by *Insalata di Finocchi*. Attendees may choose from the following:

Roasted Pork Tenderloin with Natural Juices, Grilled Swordfish with Lemon Oil and Roasted Tomatoes or Herbed Couscous with Grilled Artichokes. *Pistachio Cassata* is the dessert offering.

Sunday, December 4

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

Event Chair: Rosemarie DeBartolo

Cocktails: 6 p.m. (Cash Bar)

Dinner and Music: 7:00 p.m.

Price: \$65

Opera in the Afternoon



Commendatore Dino Valle
Verdian Baritone
as Conte Monterone

"Favorite Arias from Bellini to Puccini"

Baritone Dino Vale, founder of the Bellini Opera Theatre and the SWFL Italian Opera Society, will be joined by Lyric Soprano Beth Winger, Dramatic Soprano Ellie VandeMeuse and Russian Pianist Lidia Doroshina in a program designed to delight ICS Members with *bel canto*. This Italian-originated style of "beautiful singing" has delighted audiences for centuries. Included in our program will be recognizable favorites from *Norma*, *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, *Elisir d'Amore*, *Rigoletto*, *La Traviata* and *Tosca*.

Our program will be followed by a reception with wine and *merende* – Italian small plates including bruschetta, cheese and fruit.

Tuesday, January 10

Location: First Congregational Church of Naples 0.6 miles East of I75. Turn right onto Oakes Blvd. and left onto Autumn Oaks Lane.

Event Chair: Tom Turicchi

Performance: 3:00 p.m.

Reception: 4:00 p.m.

Price: \$27.00

Italian Language Classes Set To Begin November 2

ICS offers **Adult Italian Language Classes** at **The Community School of Naples** 13275 Livingston Road (just north of Pine Ridge), Building N, 2nd floor, on **Wednesdays** from **November** through **April** in an effort to provide opportunities to learn and speak our beautiful language. Our program coordinator or dedicated instructors can help you find a class that is "the perfect fit" for you whether you are new to the language, a seasoned traveler or striving for fluency. If you are uncertain about your placement in our classes, you may sit in to find the class which best meets your needs.

Fall Session is scheduled for **November 2 to December 14** with a one-week break for **Thanksgiving**. The **6** week session fee is **\$60** for members and **\$70** for non-members. Checks made payable to **Italian Cultural Society** will be accepted by the instructor at the first class of each session. **Checks** only, please.

Classes cannot be "sold" individually, and there is **no refund** for missed classes.

Contact **Donna Lenzi, Adult Language Program Coordinator**, at **330-606-8822** or lenzidonna@gmail.com to register or for more information. You will be contacted to confirm your class time and room number.

Fall Course Offerings

Italian I is an **entry level** course for those with **no** prior Italian language experience. The instructor guides students through pronunciation and critical sounds, greetings and essential present tense verbs using Berlitz 5-Minute Italian ISBN# 978-981-268-625-1. **ICS** makes these books available to participants at a reduced rate, but they are also available for purchase at Barnes & Noble. Italian I is a no pressure class where homework assignments increase confidence. Consider **registering early** for this popular class.

4:00-5:30 p.m.

Italian II/III expands upon introductory information and increases the complexity of conversational situations with expressions for shopping and dining, small talk, some elements of grammar including past tense. The Berlitz book used in Italian I functions as a workbook for class and at home assignments. Students who took Italian I or Italian II previously with **ICS** (or the equivalent) will feel comfortable in this class.

5:45-7:15 p.m.

Beginner Conversation relies on the elements learned in Italian I, II, III and IV or the equivalent as a **prerequisite** for this class where students read, write and converse in Italian. Exercises prepared by the instructor introduce and reinforce vocabulary while offering insight into Italian cultural situations. English is spoken to assist with grammar, structure and syntax.

5:45-7:15 p.m.

Intermediate Conversation is conducted in Italian with discussions of a thematic, literary or cultural nature using topics provided by the instructor. Homework is assigned, and student input allows for impromptu conversation in a relaxed setting. Beginner Conversation or the equivalent is the **prerequisite** for this class.

4:00-5:30 p.m.

Italian I and II classes, a combined **Italian III/IV class**, a **Beginner Conversation** and an **Intermediate Conversation class** will be offered in the Winter Session commencing **January 11**. Please refer to the Winter edition of *amici* for further details.

Instructor bios are available at website www.italianculturalsociety.com

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.**



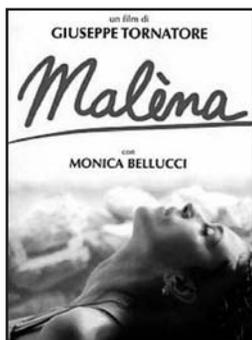
November 1 – Ciao, Professore! is a spirited comedy hailed by critics coast to coast for its vitality and raunchy good humor. Shot in 1992 and starring Paolo Viaggio and Isa Daneli, this film is absolutely brimming with life as an upper-class teacher from conservative Northern Italy finds himself teaching third-grade truants in a ramshackle school in the south. Along the way the earnest “professore” learns some valuable lessons when he begins to see life through the fresh, vibrant eyes of his scrappy, young students. Not Rated. *Italian with English Subtitles.*

December 6 – Io Non Paura. Director Gabriele Salvatores sets this film in a fictional town in Southern Italy in 1978 during the hottest summer of the century. Based on a novel by Niccolò Ammaniti, which won the 2001 Viareggio-Repaci Prize for Fiction, the plot revolves around the kidnapping of a young boy from Milan who is discovered by a 10-year-old adventurer who tries to spare him the fate that plagued so many of Italy’s wealthy families in the 70s.

Nominated for awards throughout Europe and in the US from 2003-2005, *Io Non Paura* (I’m Not Afraid) won the Audience Award For Best Actor, Giuseppe Crisiano, at the Flaiano Film Festival and the Best Cinematography Award from Italian National Syndicate of Film Journalists both in 2003.

108 minutes

Italian with English Subtitles



January 3 – Malèna. Co-produced by Italy’s Medusa Film and Miramax, this WWII era film set in Sicily chronicles a 13 year old boy’s obsession with a small-town siren. By combining a coming of age story with a sad odyssey of a woman punished for her beauty, Giuseppe Tornatore’s efforts have been compared by critics to Federico Fellini’s work presented as a simpler tale. In 2001 Monica Bellucci won the European Film Award for Best Actress for her portrayal of Malèna, and Tornatore won for Best Director. Malèna also won the Oscar for Best Cinematography and the Golden Globe for Best Foreign Language Film.

109 minutes (US Cut 92 minutes)

Italian with English subtitles

Reservation Procedure

Information Line: 239-434-3323 for information and reservations.

To Pay By Check: Call the Information Line and clearly state your name, phone number, the name of the event you are reserving, and the number and full names of your guests. Give menu choices if options are listed in *amici* and your seating preferences. Mail checks to our new address:

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.

Please note that we will continue the long-standing policy that a reservation is only **valid** when the check is received. We encourage you to make multiple reservations using one check. All reservations will receive confirmation of payment 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