

ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY FALL 2008 PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Ciao amici,

Welcome to the eleventh season of the Naples ICS. Summer has passed quickly and I hope for all of you it has been enjoyable. For the Crescenzi family we spent many days on Cape Cod with family, and friends enjoying each other's company, good food and wine. Of course, as you would expect, there were many debates over politics,

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Italy, and the state of affairs in the USA.

On behalf of your Board of Directors, we welcome everyone back to Naples and our exciting season of programs in the ICS.

I will cover three items in this letter:

- Status on programs for this season
- Why we will not merge ICS and ICF
- Benefactor/Patron Program

STATUS OF PRGRAMS:

Since I last wrote in the spring of 2008, your board of directors, the **PROGRAM** committee, **NOMINATING** committee, **HOSPITALITY** committee, the **LAUREL OAKS ITALIAN EDUCATION** committee, **MEMBERSHIP** committee and the *amici* committee have been at work planning, organizing, negotiating, and working diligently to put together next season's programs and events. You will find the calendar in this issue so that you can plan your participation in the events. Realizing the price

increases in many of our purchases from food to fuel, the program committee has tried to balance the cost of next year's programs as a breakeven proposition. You will see some luncheons will be more expensive than previous years. We are trying new venues and a new activity as well as keeping the programs which are the most popular, such as guest lectures, opera, Christmas celebration and a dinner with live entertainment. This year our regional focus will be **Emilia Romagna**. I hope you will find the programs as exciting and interesting as I do. We look forward to seeing you at the programs.

WHY THE ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY (ICS) AND THE ITALICAN CULTURAL FOUNDATION (ICF) WILL NOT MERGE.

As some of you know the board of directors has been considering a possible legal and financial restructuring of the ICS, which is designated by the IRS as a 501(c)3 non

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profit business and/or social organization, to the form of the ICF, which is designated by the IRS as a 501(c)7 as a tax exempt non profit charitable giving organization. The major financial advantage of a 501(c) 7 is that the organization is exempt from paying Federal taxes; certain items of purchase are exempt from State taxes; and all dues and fees collected from individuals are tax deductible for the individual to the extent that there is no value received.

The Italian Cultural Foundation was formed 8 years ago to be a charitable foundation to promote Italian language and culture in Collier County. There is no membership in the ICF. It has a governing body of 10 directors' (five elected to serve from the ICS board, three selected at-large from the community, and the board appoints a lawyer and accountant). The ICF with the help of volunteers from ICS's members has held two major fund raisers to support the Laurel Oaks Elementary Italian Language program, and Opera Naples. Last year ICS introduced the Benefactor and Patron program to raise funds for the ICF. The original thinking to legally merge the two organizations was perceived to be a financial benefit to the ICS members and our programs. However, recent Federal and State tax law changes are tightening the rules that apply to the missions' of a 501(c)7 and what type of purchases are tax deductible. There are significant implications on the ICS organization to qualify for a 501(c) 7. We would have to have as our primary and sole mission to support, organize and donate money to like 501©7 charitable organizations. All events and programs would have to be open to the public and be for the purpose of raising money to donate money. We would not have the flexibility to offer the broad range of programs we have today. All programs would have to qualify as either a fundraiser or educational for the benefit of the public at large, not the membership. Therefore, after four months of deliberations the Board of Director's of ICS have concluded there are significant disadvantages to the members of ICS by merging ICS and ICF into a charitable foundation.

The Board believes the members of our Society joined ICS because of its mission:

The purpose of the Society is to bring together all persons who share a common interest in Italian culture. The Society is a non-profit organization that sponsors programs related to various aspects of Italian culture including: the Italian language, visual and performing arts, films, travel, history and social events such as luncheons, dinners and wine tastings.

The Board believes there is no compelling reason to change our mission or to merge ICS and ICF.

THE BENEFACTOR AND PATRON PROGRAM

Finally, I would like to speak about Circolo Soci e Amici (Benefactor/Patron Program). Thru your generous volunteer contributions, ICF has received over \$4000. ICF relies on tax deductible contributions to underwrite the public programs it offers such as the monthly Cinema series, the teaching of the Italian Language for adults and the Laurel Oaks Elementary program.

The ICS Board of Directors' established the voluntary annual Benefactor and Patron Donation Program in January 2008. Gifts in this program are tax deductible.

There are three levels of donation available to members of ICS in Circolo Soci e amici:

- Circolo Paladini (Friend).....**\$50 to \$249**
- Circolo Pretori (Patron).....**\$250 to \$499**
- Circolo Sostenitori (Benefactor)....**\$500 to \$999**

As you consider your volunteer contributions to society, please think about this program and the good work of ICF.

I hope to see as many of you as possible this coming fall and winter in Naples.

Cordiali saluti,
Adam Crescenzi
President Italian Cultural Society

THE 2008-2009 SEASON

The 2008-2009 season for the Italian Cultural Society anticipates an interesting blend of the traditional activities that we have come to cherish with the convenience provided by the innovative technology of this new century. For example, members are now able to access the new Italian Cultural Society website online and read the latest copy of *amici*, www.ItalianCulturalSociety.com. As this media grows and develops, members will be able to obtain information and interact with the Society more conveniently.

We will continue to support the program to provide Italian Language classes to the students of Naples schools. Members will have an array of classical Italian genre movies to enjoy at the Norris Center in addition to the luncheons, lectures and other celebrations for which our group has become known.

Continuing member support for **OPERA NAPLES** will be encouraged this year as well.

As always, in the past, the society will continue to seek appropriate venues for social occasions that the members might enjoy.

Keep the schedule of events for the year, thus far, listed in this *amici*, in a handy place that will remind you of upcoming events. More details for these and additional activities will be in future *amici*.

Don't forget to sign up for the Italian language classes!

Finally, don't forget that *amici* now has the new feature by and for the members. This is an opportunity to share your particular love of Italian Culture and Lifestyle.

Submit your musings to: abiuliano@aol.com

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Italian Cultural Society Calendar of Events

October

8th ICS Board Meeting

November

5th Adult Language Program begins through Dec 17 No Class November 26

5th ICS Board Meeting

11th Film *Le Chiavi della Casa*

16th Member Welcome Brunch Plantation Club at the Dunes

December

2nd Film *Mio Fratello e' Figlio Unico*

3rd ICS Board Meeting

11th Christmas Dinner Party at Pelican Isle with entertainment

January

23rd *La Boheme* presented by Opera Naples at Gulf Coast High School

February

3rd Film *Rose Tattoo* – Anna Magnani

4th ICS Board Meeting

5th General Meeting Luncheon - Sam Bucco's Restaurant Presentation TBA

17th Mosaic Demonstration & Lecture Sienna Marble – Coffee and

25th Dinner featuring the region Emilia-Romagna at Royal Woods Country Club

March

20th Film *Open City* – Anna Magnani

21st Luncheon and Demonstration from Emilia-Romagna at Robb & Stucky 12-2pm

23rd Opera Naples – *Rigoletto* – Gulf Coast High School

27th Film *Bellissima* – Anna Magnani



La Biblioteca



We are pleased to announce an **OPEN HOUSE** at the Library on **Thursday, November 13, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to twelve noon.**

You can browse through our many items and if you wish you may take home an item(s) as long as you leave a \$35 check per item as a refundable deposit. Items may be checked out for a maximum of two weeks. We have a supply of catalogs at the Library along with an updated list of additional items that have been received.

The Library is located at 5051 Castello Drive, Suite 33, on the first floor (at the intersection of Route 41 and Castello Drive).

Light refreshments will be available. Please mark your calendars. We look forward to seeing you at the Library!

EMILIA ROMAGNA

(Pronounced like *LASAGNA*)

This year the activities of the Italian Cultural Society will focus on the many riches of this culturally exciting region.

Shaped something like a kneeling buffalo, the administrative region Emilia Romagna is bounded on the north by the Po River, on the east by the Adriatic Sea, and on the south by the Appenines. It is divided into nine regions, Piacenza, Parma, Reggio, Emilia, Modena, Bologna, Ferrara, Ravenna and Rimini. "ER" sits above Toscana and the Marches and below Lombardia and the Veneto. It's about three-quarters of the way up the boot. Its huge plain was the breadbasket of the Roman Empire and one of its cities, Ravenna, was even the Western Empire's capital in the 5th and 6th centuries.

Bologna, the great university center (everybody has a cousin or doctor friend who studied there), is ER's main city. We stayed there and enjoyed two fabulous meals. Piacenza and Parma in the northwest, Ravenna and the beach town Rimini in the east, and the dozens of stone medieval towns dotting ER might be more interesting than the capital city. You'll find Roman traces throughout the region, great cathedrals in Modena, Piacenza and Ferrara, and a marvelous baptistery in Parma (besides cheese and prosciutto).

Travelers with some Italian and who like a challenge should nibble at Michelin's "Italia," a small red book with millions of pieces of information about hotels, inns, restaurants, sights, distances, etc., etc. Its "flower" maps locate world class restaurants and its recommendations never fail! For the scholars among you, google Emilia Romagna and click on the links to the region's cities. You'll feast on the details. Our best "piatto" is John Grisham's "Playing for Pizza," a fast, delightful read about an NFL washout who signs up for football (American style) in Parma. As you read it on the flight over, you'll dip into the rich sauces of Italian culture and character!

Buon viaggio,
Richard and Paula Cappalli



This article is the first in a new segment of *amici* that is written by and for the members.

The first contributor is Edith Coleman, a society founding member. In the following essay, Edith shares her experiences as an American living for the summer in Italy.

All members are encouraged to participate and share their thoughts/experiences with all things Italian.

Submit articles via email to: abiuliano@aol.com

LEARNING WHAT IT MEANS TO BE ITALIAN

Edith Cardiello Coleman



I am an American who grew up knowing that my roots were Italian. As a child, I heard my grandmother say a few phrases in the Neopolitan dialect and we did manage to cook Italian style sometimes. We did not speak the language or practice true Italian traditions. We were Americans who thought we knew what it meant to be Italian. In recent years, I have been blessed with the opportunity to spend my summers in Italy. I now know what total immersion in Italian culture and life style is and I love it.

I have come to know and appreciate this special place. The name of the town is Roccarainola. When I first heard of this little paese, I could not pronounce the name. Italians that live a distance from it, have never heard of it and question the sound of the name. This town is very near Nola, a small but bustling city, close to Avellino. Of course, it could be considered a suburb of Napoli, slightly to the northwest with a view of the back of Vesuvius. Just above the town in the mountains that surround it, are caves that are traced back to Paolithic times. Today the people from the town use the big cave as part of the Nativity scene. There are also Roman ruins and a medieval castle. From the castle, that sits atop a mountain, visitors can enjoy a panoramic view that sweeps all the way to the bay of Naples. While the residents seem to take all of this historic grandeur for granted, they display typical Italian pride in their hometown.

In many ways, I find it not too different from my childhood experiences in a suburb of New York. People in the town gather in the evenings outside their homes to chat and catch up on the news of the day. The older children are very respectful. They seem comfortable greeting the adults, sharing pleasantries while looking people in the eye, unlike many of their American counterparts. They wander off to greet their friends, but in the end return to the group where all ages are welcome. The very young children are also included and spoiled by everyone.

In this small town, there is a pizza place, a coffee bar and a gelateria where the townspeople can congregate. To my surprise, they prefer water, soft drinks, or sometimes beer instead of wine with food later in the evening. Of course, there is always coffee.

I've come to appreciate that all these activities are an integral part of the Italian culture. I had always thought that to define Italian Culture was to speak of Music, Art and History. I was wrong! The Italian way of life represents a major part of what we know as Italian culture, and causes the Arts to flourish. Italians have a great respect for education, their hometown, and the beauty of their country.

Gathering together is a way of life. We in the USA lead a more isolated existence with activites meticulously

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planned and scheduled in advance. In Italy life just happens within the context of family gatherings. The family group can be comprised of people from all walks of life. The common denominator is the special place of honor held by the mother, who must always be respected even when you don't agree with her.

Italians love families, parties and festas. Every weekend is a cause for celebration. Any reason will do to eat, sing and enjoy each others company. Sunday dinner shares the same importance as going to Mass. Exact times for events are not so important. People gather late into the night. The children are up with them. There is no need for baby sitters.

Needless to say, I love this experience. I did not think that a place like this existed on the planet anymore. As an American I am always surprised that they know I'm American as soon as I start to speak Italian. They are very kind when I make a mistake. They tell me that I pronounce the words well with no hint of dialect. That, they say, is the clue. They seem to appreciate the fact that I am trying to learn all that I can about Italy and its people.

A Cinema Italiano

All films will be shown at the Norris Center.

A donation of \$4.00 to defray the cost of the presentations would be appreciated.



The Keys to the House (Le chiavi di casa) November 11, 200. The Keys to the House is a dramatic family film telling the story of a young father meeting his handicapped son for the first time. Gianni has been reunited with Paolo, the 15-year old son he abandoned at birth. The reunion, arranged by Paolo's doctor, had been set up with the hope that it would benefit the troubled boy. In his attempt to foster a relationship, Gianni finds Paolo full of shocks and wonders eventually realizing that the keys to one's house are often the keys to one's heart. Directed by Gianni Amelio. Actors are Andrea Rossi, Alla Faerovich and Pierfrancesco Favino. Release date 2004, color, 107 minutes, not rated. Italian with English subtitles.



My Brother is an Only Child (Mio fratello è figlio unico) December 2, 2008. Accio is the cause of his parents' desperation; irritable and a trouble maker, impulsive and explosive, fighting every battle like a war. His brother Manrico is handsome, charismatic, loved by all, but he is just as dangerous. In the Italian small town life of the 60's and 70's the two brothers have opposite political beliefs, are in love with the same woman and through an endless confrontation, they live a period of their lives filled with escaping, retuning, fighting and great passions. It is a story about growing up, where fifteen years of Italian history pass by as we experience the adventures of Accio and Manrico, two brothers who are very different yet so alike. Directed by Daniele Luchetti. Actors are Elio Germano, Riccardo Scamarcio and Angela Finocchiaro. Release date 2007, color, 108 minutes, not rated. Italian with English subtitles. Winner of five Donatello awards.



Open City (città aperta) January 20, 2009. Acclaimed as "Europe's first post war masterpiece" this film stars the incomparable Anna Magnani and Aldo Fabrizi as an impoverished mother-to-be and a parish priest whose loyalties are tested by the sinister German forces that occupy their homeland during World War II. Filmed on the streets of Rome in the first weeks of the Allied liberation and employing a number of non-actors in supporting roles, OPEN CITY placed itself at the vanguard of the Italian neorealist movement, brilliantly evoking the conflicting feelings of weary despair and steely determination that bound together the embattled partisan resistance in the face of certain death. Yet it was not merely the proximity to the actual events that made Rossellini's film so spellbinding, but the director's sure-handed

blend of gentle humor and terrifying violence, a melding of documentary style camerawork with other more boldly melodramatic ingredients to create a cinematic milestone of raw emotional force that stands virtually unchallenged to this day. Directed by Roberto Rossellini. Release date 1945, black and white, 105 minutes, Italian with English subtitles. Winner of the Best Picture Award at the 1946 Cannes Film Festival.



Bellissima January 27, 200. Bellissima is an Italian neorealism film and is a satire of the film industry and centers around a mother and daughter pair. Maddalena is a screen struck mother convinced of her daughter Maria's star potential. Dreaming of a better life for her family, as a means of escape from the struggles of everyday existence in working-class Rome, Maddalena invests everything including her last penny into the dream that her daughter will be discovered at an open casting. However, on overhearing the film crew's candid assessment of her daughter's audition Maddalena is forced to reconsider her views on the film industry and its world of illusions. Directed by Luchino Visconti. Actors are Anna Magnani, Walter Chiari and Tina Apicella. Release date in Italy was 1951 and in the United States in 1953, color, 115 minutes, Italian with English subtitles.



The Rose Tattoo February 3, 2009. Serafina Delle Rose retreats from the world when her beloved husband dies. But Serafina reawakens to life's joys when she meets Alvaro, a happy-go-lucky truck driver who has the same sunny openness her husband had, even the same occupation. And on his chest is the same symbol of love, The Rose Tattoo. When Tennessee Williams wrote The Rose Tattoo he had one actress in mind, Anna Magnani. His sense of casting proved as sharp as his ear for dialogue. Magnani won the Best Actress Oscar for her bravura portrayal in this drama that received eight Academy Award nominations and won three including Best Picture. Directed by Daniel Mann. Burt Lancaster stars with Anna Magnani. Release date 1945, black and white, 116 minutes, not rated, Italian with English subtitles.



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.

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

of Naples, Florida, Inc.

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