



amici

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A PUBLICATION OF THE ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY

ICS PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Villa Almerico-Capra is the most famous of Andrea Palladio's masterpieces and the quintessence of the more than twenty villas of Veneto that bear his signature. "The Rotunda," as it is commonly known, is situated in Vicenza where the prolific master-craftsman and writer, a favorite among the locals, plied his trade to create the temple-villa architectural style that was imitated throughout Europe and the United States. The genius of Palladio and his work will be the topic of the two lectures at The Vineyards on January 15 and 17 (see Calendar of Events on page 3).

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Cari amici,

There are many ways to measure "success." As a musician and businessman, I like the metric used by Giuseppe Verdi...i.e.: How many people paid to attend our performances? Wagner was on a philosophical mission, but for Verdi it was much more straight-forward. "How many tickets did we sell?"

This is not meant to be a Music history lesson, just a lead-in to what I consider the most successful Fall in the history of ICS.

Last year we sold out every event except one. Many of us considered this sort of a badge of honor since three or four years ago 50 to 75 participants was common attendance. After we announced our attendance numbers for the season, one member wrote: "WOW!!!!!! How do you spell success?!?!?!? This is unbelievable!!!!!!"

However, "sold out" is a double-edged sword. We didn't have to worry about a financial loss at any event, but I received a lot of angry e-mails from those who could not get into an event. A long-time member wrote, "...many of us can't commit to an entire season so far in advance as we don't have our season lined up. It's one thing to wait until the last minute to book, and another to be locked out three months in advance. I suggest you and the board consider the problem."

Well we did, and the Board recommended that the planning committee seek out larger venues for this season's events. As a result we went from clubs with a capacity of 120 to several clubs that could accommodate 180 or more.

Which brings us to this year. By December we had booked an average of 165 reservations for every event from Welcome Back Brunch to the end of the year. The ICS Players first ever performance – Goldoni Play Reading – was sold out in November. We also sold out the Opera at the Silverspot Cinema and have added a second and then a third showing. "The Palaces of Palladio" sold out by October, and we added a second day for that luncheon/lecture. Also Dr. Mary Watt's lecture on the history of Venice, "La Serenissima," was moved to the Naples Yacht Club in order to accommodate a larger audience.

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Next year's planning committee (2013-2014) is already at work. A venue team has looked at over 25 facilities for next year. They have identified facilities that will accommodate up to 50% more members than attended similar events this year and meet the presentation needs of our speakers and performers. The goal is "no wait lists" and no members "locked out."

The question I am often asked is, "How did we go from 65 to 165 in average attendance?" The amazing thing is we have not grown in membership size! We have made all this growth (painful as it may be at times) in participation of our membership. Of our present members, 55% joined in the past four years. The demographics of our membership remain much the same, but the attitudes and interests of our members have changed. Our newer members attend the lecture and performance programs at a significantly higher rate than the past members.

The other question which must be asked is, "Does this shift in participation represent a positive or negative change in the direction of our organization?" To answer this, we refer to the Mission of ICS. We are not a Dining Club nor a Charitable Foundation. Our primary purpose is "...to bring people together to celebrate Italy's enormous contribution to the arts and culture of the world." The current membership by their participation has shown their support and commitment to this purpose...a very positive trend.

Cordiali saluti,
Tom Turicchi
President

Special Offer To ICS Members

ICS is pleased to offer reprints from *Italy Italy*, a magazine that captured many aspects of Italian culture through beautiful photography and illuminating articles. When *Italy Italy* ceased publication six years ago, a cache of ethnic treasures seemed to be lost. Now, we have a chance to preserve the many and varied elements of our heritage explored in vivid color in this once fascinating magazine.

Pre-Order reprints from the following selections:

Region	Pages	Cost	Number	Dollar Amount
Sicily	156 pages	\$15.00	_____	_____
Campania	268 pages	\$25.00	_____	_____
Glories From All Italy (Vol. 1)	298 pages	\$25.00	_____	_____
Glories From All Italy (Vol. 2)	291 pages	\$25.00	_____	_____
All Italy Recipes	134 pages	\$15.00	_____	_____

Your Name: _____ Total \$ Amount Included _____

Mail to: Italian Cultural Society, 1100 Fifth Avenue South, Suite 201, Naples, FL 34102

ATTN: Monika

ICS Calendar of Events 2013

Tuesday, January 15

Il Cinema Italiano

Tuesday, January 15 and Thursday, January 17

Lecture and Luncheon

"The Palaces of Palladio" by Carol M. Jonson

The Vineyards

Social: 11 a.m.; 11:30 Lecture followed by Luncheon

Wednesday, January 23

Lecture and Luncheon

"La Serenissima": A City in Four Seasons

by Mary Watt, Ph.D.

Naples Yacht Club

Social: 11 a.m.; 11:30 Lecture, Luncheon, General

Meeting including Presentation of Slate of Officers

Friday, February 1

Lecture and Luncheon

"Giuseppe Verdi: Farmer and Composer"

by Ron Bowman, Ph.D.

Hilton Naples

Social: 11 a.m.; 11:30 Lecture followed by Luncheon

Tuesday, February 5

Il Cinema Italiano

Tuesday, February 12

Carnevale

The Club at the Strand

Cocktails: 6 p.m.

Dinner and Entertainment: 7-9 p.m.

Tuesday, February 19

Il Cinema Italiano

Thursday, February 21

Goldoni Play Reading Performed by ICS Players

Naples United Church of Christ

Performance: 4 p.m.; Reception to follow

**Tuesday, March 5, Wednesday, March 6
and Thursday, March 7**

"Opera in Cinema"

Silverspot at Mercato

Giuseppe Verdi's *Rigoletto*

Reserved Seat Assignment: 11 a.m.

Film 11:30 SHARP

Intermission with Light Snack and Beverage

Monday, March 11

Lecture

Art at the Phil: "The Glory of Venice"

by Joan Jacobs

The Naples Philharmonic, Daniels Pavilion

Lecture: 1 p.m.

Monday, March 18

Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Hilton Naples

Social: 11 a.m.; Meeting: 11:30

followed by Lunch

Monday, March 25

Il Cinema Italiano

Tuesday, April 2

Il Cinema Italiano

For detailed information about the ICS events listed in the calendar please visit our website at www.italianculturalsociety.com.

FYI

According to best-selling author John Berendt whose most recent book chronicles the devastating fire that burned Venice's Opera House, La Fenice, to the ground, Harry's Bar in Venice is credited with inventing the *Bellini*, a delightful combination of Prosecco and the juice of fresh white peaches.

Berendt, best known for his blockbuster novel *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, penned *The City of Falling Angels*, a work of non-fiction, after living and working among the Venetians who are brilliantly portrayed after the fire and during the reconstruction efforts. The title of the book was inspired by the sign posted outside the Santa Maria della Salute Church in Venice in the early 1970s before the restoration of its marble ornaments. The sign read, "Beware of Falling Angels."

The Italians Are Coming, The Italians Are Coming!

Donna Lenzi



Last month Italy officially launched a program of events in the United States entitled **"The Year of Italian Culture 2013"** that will be spearheaded by her Minister of Foreign Affairs, Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata. The project, which is said to focus in equal measure on science, technology and culture, with a concentration on innovation from the Renaissance to today, seeks to strengthen the links between Italy and the United States with research grants, symposiums, prizes and tourism initiatives as well as shows.

Toward that end, Italy will send Caravaggio's "Raising of Lazarus," Leonardo's "Codex on the Flight of Birds," and the ancient Roman marble statue "The Dying Gaul" in addition to the sculpted (but unfinished) Michelangelo said to be a symbol of the Italian Renaissance. First displayed at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC in 1949, "David-Apollo" was on loan as a gift from Italy in gratitude for American assistance in the post-war period. As the front-runner to **"The Year of Italian Culture 2013,"** it was again unveiled on December 12, 2012 for a new generation of admirers.

Michelangelo's "David-Apollo" (circa 1530) According to Minister Terzi, this year-long project offers "...a direct gateway to the best of Italy..." from ancient masterpieces to contemporary art, from Michelangelo and Leonardo to Morandi and de Chirico, from Calvino to Pasolini, "The genius of Italy will shine bright once again across America."

Academy-Award winner Nicola Piovani has composed a soundtrack to accompany some of the many and varied events including a New York-based festival of the films of Pasolini, a Washington show of contemporary Italian photographers, and a visit by Milan's *Teatro alla Scala* training orchestra. In celebration of the 200th anniversary of Giuseppe Verdi's birth, The Metropolitan Opera will offer its signature *Met Titles* with English, German, Italian and some Spanish translations of what is being sung during performances via a device mounted to the backs of auditorium seats. The fashion house Dolce and Gabbana has agreed to underwrite the cost of this venture.

Minister Terzi, in an interview with *The Washington Post*, elaborated, "Culture is by far the most important element of Italian foreign policy. Italy is a cultural superpower...When you look at Italy as a geographical expression, an ethnic expression, what comes to your mind immediately is culture. That's why culture must be a fundamental pillar of Italian foreign policy."

Celebrating the glorious culture of Italy, the Society focused its programs in January and February to highlight the great contributions to the world that emanated from the Veneto region. Palladio, Verdi, Goldoni and Venice herself will take center stage in 2013 in lectures designed to enlighten and entertain. As Italy celebrates the 200th anniversary of the birthday of Verdi, the 500th anniversary of Machiavelli's *The Prince* and the 700th anniversary of Boccaccio's birth, we celebrate with her!

Carnevale: Una Serata Veneziana



Venice boasts the world's most famous *Carnevale* celebration, and The Club at the Strand will serve as the backdrop for our recreation of this most magical of festivals complete with masks, a Baroque Ensemble, a Court Jester, and delightful surprises at the ICS "Signature Event" for 2013.

While Venetians will celebrate *Carnevale* from January 26 through February 12 with candlelit water parades on the Grand Canal, feasting, a three-week series of programs that harkens back to the historical period, and a reinvigorated partnership with Venetian cultural institutions, ICS will content itself with a single night of revelry on February 12. No "Flight of the Angel" from the tower of San Marco for us, music will inaugurate our festivities as we proceed from the reception area into the dining room.

In Venice tradition dictates that anyone who arrives at the ever-changing location for *la festa* in proper costume may attend the *Gran Ballo delle Maschere* (Grand Masked Ball), as long as they can dance the quadrilles and other centuries-old steps. ICS Members will only be required to arrive in mask and indulge in *Prosecco* to begin the evening's adventure signaled with trumpet fanfare and processional music. *Cicchetti* including *Baccalà Montecatò*, *Branzino* and handmade *Gnocchi* will whet your appetite for the four-course meal, prepared Venetian style by Chef Deane Strong, which will follow the *Antipasti* and will be served with a selection of Veneto regional wines accompanying each course. *Primo Piatto*, *Intermezzo*, *Secondo Piatto*, *Dolce* will please the palate while Baroque sonatas, classical Italian music and Italian arias for trumpets will charm our other senses. Delight to the sounds of the Rauschenberg Baroque Ensemble with Wendy Willis on flute, Vivian Aiello on violin, Diane Coffman on cello and Dr. Ronald Doiron at the keyboard. Mary Bowen and Alan Klispie, both on trumpet, will enliven our dessert course with a movement of Vivaldi's "Concerto for Two Trumpets."

Be forewarned! Masks are required for this event, but black tie (or opulent costume) is optional. Online websites of local party supply stores can assist in your search for the perfect mask. Our program coordinator also recommends Masquerade, 2100 Trade Center Way, Naples or Sylvana's Floral Design, 5400 Taylor Road #101, Naples to assist you with getting into the festive mood that will gain you admittance into this extravaganza.

Date: Tuesday, February 12

Location: The Club at the Strand, 5840 Strand Blvd., Naples (239) 592-5076

Event Chairs: Sue and Fred Luconi

Cocktail reception in the Grand Lobby: 6 p.m.

Dinner and Entertainment: 7-9 p.m.

Adult Language Classes Resume

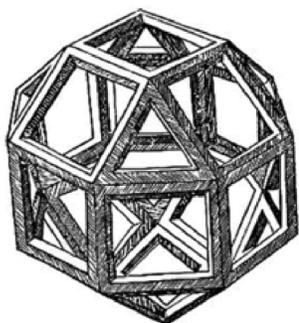
ICS Adult Language Classes will resume January 9 in Building N of the Community School of Naples on Livingston Road just north of Pine Ridge. Offerings for the six-week Winter Session include **Italian I and II** at 4:30, **Pathways to Conversation** and **Beginner Conversation** at 6:15 and **Intermediate Conversation** at 4:30. Under consideration is an Italian IV class at 4:30. Italian III will not be offered in the Winter Session, but it will be offered in the Spring Session which will begin Feb. 20. Complete course descriptions and teacher bios can be found on our website. If you took classes last winter (January 2012), please note the change in the start times to 4:30 and 6:15 for this January.

The six-week course is \$60 for members and \$70 for non-members and must be paid on the first day of class with a check made out to the Italian Cultural Society and given to the instructor. Please, checks only. Italian I, II, III and IV use Berlitz 5 Minute Italian for in-class and home study. ICS offers these books at the slightly reduced rate of \$16 to participants. The book and course can be paid with one check if convenient. The conversation classes do not use a book.

The Language Program attempts to ensure that individuals are properly placed in the class that best suits needs and skills levels. Contact Program Coordinator, Donna Lenzi at lenzidonna@gmail.com to register or if you have concerns about placement. You are not registered for a class until you receive a confirmation email from Donna with your classroom and instructor.

If you have suggestions for additional course offerings or are interested in extending classes through April, contact Donna to share your ideas.

Universal Language?



Very few people, if any, are literate in all the world's tongues- English, Italian, and so on. However, we're told, all of us possess the ability to be "literate" in the shared language of math. Perhaps this was the desire of Luca Pacioli (1445-1517) Italian mathematician, Franciscan friar, collaborator with Leonardo da Vinci and "The Father of the Modern Accounting System."

Pacioli moved to Venice in 1464, served as a math tutor to the sons of merchants there and published his first book *Summa de arithmetica, geometria, proportioni et proportionalità* in 1494 which was the synthesis of the math knowledge of his time and contained the first printed work on algebra written in the vernacular. This was the first published description of the method of bookkeeping that Venetian merchants used during the Renaissance, known to us today as the double-entry accounting system.

In 2006 an unpublished treatise by Pacioli, *De ludo scacchorum* (On the Game of Chess), was discovered in the library of Count Guglielmo Coronini and gained public attention in 2008 when scholars speculated that Leonardo da Vinci either drew the chess problems that appear in the manuscript or designed the chess pieces. Created in the times when chess moves were evolving into the ones known today, the manuscript has over one hundred chess problems to be solved earning it the title "*Schifanoia*," translated as "The Boredom Dodger."

Da Vinci is credited with drawing the illustrations in Pacioli's book *De divina proportione* published in Venice in 1509. Shown above is the first printed illustration of a rhombicuboctahedron by da Vinci as it appears in Pacioli's book.

Paolo Veronese Exhibition

The John and Mabel Ringling Museum of Art is presenting the first comprehensive Paolo Veronese (1528-1588) art exhibition in The United States in more than two decades bringing many of his finest paintings and drawings from North American collections together to Sarasota for display until April 14.

The exhibition, entitled "A Master and his Workshop in Renaissance Venice," sheds light on Veronese (born Paolo Cagliari in Verona) as a masterful, deeply emphatic storyteller and narrative painter whose works were often iconographically complex and invested with rich layers of meaning. One of Veronese's most impressive works in America, "Rest on the Flight into Egypt," was the first Old Master painting John Ringling acquired for his museum which began as a personal passion but has since come under the governance of Florida State University and has been designated as an official state art museum.



"The Feast in the House of Levi" 1573
Galleria dell' Accademia, Venice

On March 26, ICS will travel by motor coach to the museum and will be guided by docents on a private tour of the exhibit at 11:15. Lunch, scheduled for 1 p.m., will be at Treviso Restaurant in the Visitor's Pavilion on the grounds. The 4:15 departure allows time to explore the other parts of the museum which has 10,000 objects, paintings, sculptures, drawings, photographs and prints in its collection. The historic, restored mansion, Ca' d'Zan, with its beautifully-maintained 20 acre property on the waterfront is also open to the public.

Photography is permitted without flash indoors and throughout the grounds, but it is not permitted in the Special Exhibitions.

Pictured to the right is the painting by Veronese, originally entitled "Last Supper." During the Roman Catholic Inquisition, it's "irreverence" and "undecorum" bordering on "heresy" led to an investigation of Veronese. The punishment imposed by the inquisitors was to repaint the last supper within a three month timeframe. Veronese renamed the painting after another Biblical passage of lesser significance rather than comply, and the fantasy version of a Venetian patrician feast no longer offended or merited further mention.

Date: Tuesday, March 26

Location: Depart by motor coach from North Naples Community Park Fun and Sun Parking Lot on Livingston Road. The park is situated between Immokalee and Vanderbilt.

Event Chair: Carolyn Dickinson

Call: 239-594-9991 to reserve

Departure: 9 a.m.; **Return:** 6:15 p.m.

Cost: \$75 (bus, lunch and private tour)

Menu: Your choice of Pasta Bolognese or Buffalo Mozzarella *Girasole* (vegetarian, small ravioli).
Dessert: Tiramisù and Beverage

Note: This special "Extra Event" not originally published in the Fall issue of *amici* Calendar of Events is **NOT INCLUDED** in the Silver and Gold Pass offerings.

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

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