



Amici

PUBLICATION OF THE ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY

Fall 2015 VOLUME 17 ISSUE 1

ICS President's Perspective



The region of Tuscany in central Italy is composed of ten major areas, the most important of which is Florence (Firenze), its capital. The other nine areas working our way in a circle from Florence going west, south and east, include Prato, Pistoia, Lucca, Massa and Carrara, Pisa, Livorno (including the island of Elba), Grosseto, Siena and Arezzo. The total number of inhabitants in the region is approximately 3.8 million, and the area covers almost 9,000 square miles. Both the Tuscan flag and the coat of arms display Pegasus, the winged horse, in flight.

Tuscany gave birth to the Renaissance, famous for its schools of painting and sculpture, and for a plethora of writers and musicians, artists and scientists who made a major mark on all civilization and who influenced all of western Europe from the 13th century onward.

Continued on page 10

Cari Amici di ICS:

As I begin my term as President, I wonder how I can possibly improve or even maintain the wonderful work of Tom Turicchi and the ICS Board.

This past year we set a record for member attendance at our events (thanks to all of you!), our language school, and our movie series. Because of larger venues and the Ticket Exchange Program on our website there were no waiting lists for events.

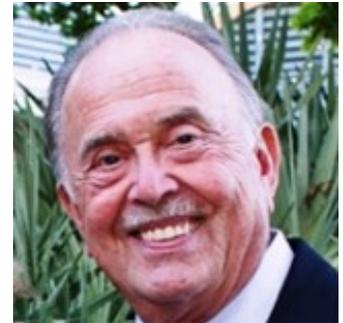
Over the past three years, as member participation in our events has increased, there has been a corresponding increase in our operating costs. These are covered by member dues, and the Board was obliged to impose a very slight increase in dues.

In 2015-16, the first of two Tuscany seasons, we are bringing to Naples international scholars who will talk about the Renaissance geniuses: Michelangelo, Leonardo, Masaccio, Raphael, and Lorenzo the Magnificent. We also have fabulous concerts planned. We are bringing back Marco Fiorante whom you loved at the "Con Amore" musicale. And the highlight of the season will be a super-star singer, Tuscan-born Giorgia Fumanti. Check her out on YouTube. She is marvelous!

On the plus side, ICS has a small fund reserve and the Board will use it to keep prices for these wonderful events below our actual costs.

As a final word, what I have enjoyed most about my membership in ICS is the collegiality we extend to each other. I hope that you will take a few moments to meet our new members and those whom you do not know. Search them all out and offer a warm greeting.

*Saluti cordiali,
Richard Cappalli, President
Italian Cultural Society*



Visit Our website at: www.italianculturalsociety.com

ICS 2015-2016 Calendar of Events October 2015 to January 2016

October 12, 2015 Monday noon	Tuscan Regional Food Campiello Ristorante	Columbus Day Luncheon
October 29 to November 19, 2015 Thursdays 3:00 pm– 4:30 pm	Opera Without Fear First Congregational Church Friendship Hall	A new look at the <i>Barber of Seville</i> 4 week course with Dr. Tom Turicchi as Presenter
November 2, 2015 Monday 11:00 am	Welcome Back: Travel Lecture & Lunch Naples Hilton	Florence: Beyond David and the Duomo with Tom Turicchi, Richard Cappalli & Ron Diorio
November 9, 2015 Monday 6:45 pm	Italian Film Series The Norris Center	LA PIVELLINA (THE LITTLE GIRL)
December 6, 2015 Sunday 6:00 pm	A Regional Dinner The Club Pelican Bay	Tuscan Christmas Dinner and Holiday Music with the Naples Carolers
December 7, 2015 Monday 6:45 pm	Italian Film Series The Norris Center	MACCHERONI (MACARONI)
January 8, 2016 Friday 7:00 pm	Performance and Wine Reception Moorings Presbyterian Church	Giorgia Fumanti: Live in Concert with Ed Pember, James Cochran and The Philharmonic Chamber Chorale
January 11, 2016 Monday 6:45 pm	Italian Film Series The Norris Center	BENVENUTI AL NORD (WELCOME TO THE NORTH)

For a full description of all events, visit the ICS website
www.italianculturalsociety.com January to April 2016 events will be
featured in the next edition of *Amici*

**If you traveled to Italy during your summer vacation, we would like to
print photos of ICS members in Italy in the Winter 2016 edition of *Amici*
For more information contact Joe Crivelli 239-594-1148
jandpcrivelli@gmail.com**

Opera Without Fear: A New Class Offering for ICS members Fall Session: "How to Listen to and Understand Opera"

Classes October 29 to November 19, 2015
First Congregational Church of Naples
4 weeks class tuition: \$60

Thursdays 3:00 – 4:30 pm
Class Limited to 40
Dr. Tom Turicchi, Presenter

Join ICS lecturer Dr. Tom Turicchi as he offers a musician's look at the world of opera. Using audio and video examples, the class will focus on developing listening skills to help increase your enjoyment. No previous opera experience or knowledge is necessary. Just come prepared to listen, watch and enjoy.

These classes will address the basics such as:

- The Two Languages of Opera – Words and Music
- Vocal Numbers (Arias, duets, ensembles, etc.)
- What to listen for: Rossini 3 S's
- Who's who: Central Characters and their Voice Types
- First step to Understanding Opera...Learn the story
- The Libretto
- Form and Function: How Operas are put together
- In-depth look at a popular 19th Century Italian Opera
Act 1, Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*



Contact Tom Turicchi, at 239-331-8587 or tturicchi@gmail.com to register or for more information. You will receive an email as your confirmation.

Consider registering early as seating is limited.

Checks made payable to Italian Cultural Society will be accepted by the instructor at the first session. Checks only, please.

This class will be presented again in March 2016

Columbus Day Luncheon Monday, October 12, 2015

Campiello's
Doors Open 11:30 a.m.

Chair: Amy Rego
Price: \$32



Christopher Columbus

This leisurely luncheon will allow ICS members to get re-acquainted and share stories of their summer activities. It will be held at one of Naples' finest Italian restaurants, Campiello's, which is housed in one of the city's oldest buildings. The menu will include food from the Tuscany region of Italy, the featured region for the 2015 and 2016 seasons.

Please join us for this enjoyable event which provides an opportunity to celebrate the memory of Columbus, one of Italy's favorite heroes.

For special dietary needs, please contact event chair at least 1 week before the luncheon.

Welcome Back Luncheon: Florence: "Beyond David and the Duomo" Monday, November 2, 2015

Hilton Naples
Chairs: Al and Anna Castley, Charlie Alaimo
Doors open at 11:00 a.m. Talk 11:30 a.m.

Speakers: Richard Cappalli,
Dr. Tom Turicchi and Ron Diorio
Price: \$38

We begin our two-season highlight of Tuscany with an introduction to Florence and a selection of its delights.

Even if you have visited Firenze and already know its major offerings our erstwhile trio of speakers will fascinate you with their presentations. They plan to take you beyond the highlights of the city as each introduces you to new insights, including a few of this beautiful city's hidden treasures, so bring your curiosity as well as your appetite to this fun event.

Italy's version of Westminster Abbey, a magnificent Basilica that is the final resting place of some famous Florentines, is on our agenda. Avoid the tourist scene with a visit to the oldest public building in Florence and tranquilly enjoy the works of several of the city's famous sculptors.

We will also cross the Arno, climb a hill, introduce a highly regarded modern day sculptor, and otherwise treat you to new discoveries as we sharpen your appetite for the season ahead... and of course for our wonderful lunch.

For special dietary needs, please contact event chair at least 1 week before the luncheon.



**Bronze David
By Donatello**

A Tuscan Christmas Dinner Sunday, December 6, 2015

The Club Pelican Bay
Chairs: Sue and Fred Luconi
Performers: Naples Carolers

Doors Open 6:00 p.m.
Dinner Served 6:45 p.m.
Price: \$80



Toscana: Firenze,
Il Duomo e albero di Natale.

Please join your fellow ICS members for a Tuscan-themed celebration of the Christmas season at the beautiful The Club Pelican Bay. Amidst twinkling Christmas lights, ladies and gents in their holiday attire will gather to enjoy a specially-prepared, four-course Tuscan dinner with paired wines of the region. Then, for your entertainment, we are again pleased to bring you the strolling Naples Carolers singing your favorite songs of the season.

Don't miss this ICS Christmas Tradition

For special dietary needs, please contact event chairs at least 1 week before the dinner

**Giorgia Fumanti; Live in concert with Ed Pember,
James Cochran and the Philharmonic Concert Chorale
Friday, January 8, 2016**

Moorings Presbyterian Church
Chairs: Tom Turicchi, Claudia Polzin
Price: \$55

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
Concert at 7:00 p.m.
Wine Reception to follow concert

This season we are proud to bring to Naples the internationally renowned Italian soprano **Giorgia Fumanti**.

A voice capable of opera, Ms. Fumanti chose to embrace the fusion of classical and pop, and she draws comparisons to the operatic-pop style of Andrea Bocelli and Sarah Brightman. She is known for her dynamic voice and commanding stage presence. In this performance she will be joined by Baritone Ed Pember, the Naples Philharmonic Chamber Chorale and an outstanding ensemble of classical musicians.



Giorgia has brought the best of Italian music to audiences all over the world. She sang at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and appeared on several PBS specials including "Heavenly Voices." Ms. Fumanti has shared the stage with Jose Carreras and Michael Bolton.



James Cochran is the founder and director of the Naples Philharmonic Chorus, and director of the Naples Philharmonic Chorale and Youth Chorus. As the Naples Philharmonic Chorus director, he has prepared the ensemble for concerts under the batons of such preeminent conductors as Keith Lockhart, Jack Everly and Jorge Mester. Apart from his work with the Naples Philharmonic, Cochran serves as the Director of Music at the Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church.



Ed Pember as soloist for the US Air Force Band for nine years, sang for three U.S. Presidents as well as many heads of state and dignitaries throughout the United States, Europe and North Africa. Given his rich baritone voice, Mr. Pember is equally comfortable singing oratorio, opera and musical theater. Recent performances include: *Enrico* in Arbor Opera Theater's production of *Lucia*, the role of *Leporello* in Flint Light Opera's production of *Don Giovanni*, and as baritone Soloist in *Carmina Burana* with The Detroit Concert Choir.

This concert will be open to ICS members and guests and after November it will be open to the general public. Don't miss out on this extraordinary opportunity to hear a world class performance.
Early reservations are strongly recommended.



Adult Language Classes Fall 2015

ICS will offer Italian Adult Language Classes at the Community School of Naples, 13275 Livingston Road (one traffic light north of Pine Ridge), in Building N on Tuesdays and Wednesdays during “season” in an effort to offer opportunities for members and friends of the Society to learn and speak *la nostra bella lingua*. Contact Donna Lenzi, Program Coordinator, lenzidonna@gmail.com to register or for more information. Please Note: Registration is required in advance for ALL course offerings and every session. To register send an email to Donna with your contact information (cell or home phone) and your course selection.

YOU ARE NOT REGISTERED UNTIL YOU RECEIVE A CONFIRMATION EMAIL FROM THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR WITH YOUR INSTRUCTOR’S NAME AND CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENT.

Fall Session held October 27/28 through December 8/9, with a break the week of Thanksgiving, includes six classes (9 hours of instruction). Fee: \$60 for members, \$70 for non-members

Fall Course Offerings:

Italian I (4:30-6:00 p.m. Tuesday and/or Wednesday) is the entry level course in our Introductory Series for those with little to no experience with the language. The instructor guides participants through pronunciation, vocabulary, basics and essential verbs using *Italian Made Simple* * by Cristina Mazzone (ISBN # 0-7679-1539-9 or 9780767915397.) Consider registering early in Fall and Winter Session for this popular class.

Italian III (4:30-6:00 p.m. Tuesday or Wednesday) expands upon introductory information and grammatical elements presented in Italian I and II using the required text *Italian Now! L’italiano d’oggi!* * by Marcel Danesi (ISBN # 978-1-438000060.) Requirement: Italian II or equivalent. Specify day when registering.

Please note: All of our courses are response-driven and will be offered on the days and at the times listed if there is a sufficient number of registered participants.

Intro Wrap-Up (4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Tuesday) is the conclusion to the Introductory Series with the two-fold purpose of offering a refresher for those who have been away from the language for the summer while preparing students for a beginning conversation course. *Italian Now! L’italiano d’oggi!* * by Marcel Danesi (see above) is the required text. Requirement: Italian III-IV or equivalent.

Conversation: Beyond The Basics (4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Tuesday) is an advanced-beginner course conducted in Italian offering opportunities to read and discuss various topics pertinent to Italian life and culture. Listening activities develop students’ confidence in understanding the spoken word. Participants work in pairs and small groups with materials provided by the instructor. Weekly homework is assigned. Requirement: Beginner Conversation or equivalent

Italian Through Contemporary Film (4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Wednesday) is the film buff’s choice. Film related activities encourage students to think, speak and write in Italian. At-home viewing and weekly homework are assigned. Class is conducted in Italian, seminar style. Required text is *Italian Through Film: A Text For Italian Courses* * by Borra and Pausini, Yale University Press 2004. Skill level: Intermediate

Intermediate Conversation (6:15 -7:45 p.m. Wednesday) relies on grammatical and linguistic elements honed in Beginner Conversation (or equivalent) to increase comfort in conversational situations. Students read, write and converse in Italian. Material presented by the instructor introduces and reinforces vocabulary while offering insights into Italian cultural situations.

Italian Language Classes Fall 2015 Schedule (continued)

Advanced Conversation: Italian Through Literature (4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Wednesday) is a new twist on our Advanced Conversation course. “Italian Through Literature” continues to refine students’ oral skills with the reading and discussion of modern Italian literature from poetry to short stories to novels. Selected readings representing a variety of authors stimulate discussion on social and cultural perspectives. Fall Session Genre: Poetry.

*** N.B.** Required text should be purchased by the student prior to the first class.

Some classes are conducted on the second floor of the N Building. An elevator and rest rooms are available in Building N.

By popular demand, an “**Italian For Travelers**” course will be offered on Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m. Please contact Donna if you are interested in this course for Winter (January) or Spring (February) Session. You may pre-register for this or any other course by emailing Donna. Visit the Language Page of our website where you will find full course descriptions and Teacher Bios. The web page will be updated as information becomes available.

Treasurer’s Report for the Year Ending June 30, 2015

The ICS By-Laws (Article V, Paragraph 4) state: “The Treasurer shall present a financial statement at the Annual Meeting of the Society and at other times when requested by the Board of Directors.” The Board of Directors voted to disseminate the final statement by including it in the Fall issue of *Amici*. Below please find the ICS Operating Statement for the year ending June 30, 2015.

Ed Giovine, Treasurer

<u>ICS Operating Statement Y/E June 30, 2015</u>	
Membership Income (Net)	\$16,614
Income from all Programs	\$104,279
Interest / Other Income	\$363
Total Income	\$121,256
General Operating Expenses	\$18,948
Program Expenses	\$91,071
Total Expenses	\$110,019
Income Before Board Authorized Expenditures	\$11,237
<u>Authorized Expenditures:</u>	
Pass Discounts	\$3,265
New Member and Volunteer Events/Board	\$4,352
Reprint: <i>Italy-Italy (Campania)</i>	\$1,445
Program Enhancements	\$615
Event Subsidies	\$3,094
Total Authorized Expenditures	\$12,771
Increase/(Decrease) in Assets	(\$1,534)
Assets Beginning of Year	\$51,214
Assets End of Year	\$49,680
Restricted	\$30,000
Unrestricted	\$19,680

Dante, Petrarch and the Italian Language

For more than a century and a half now, Italians have been one nation. A primary unifying influence has been the establishment of one language—spoken throughout Italy and taught in the schools. That language is based on the dialect of Tuscany, known as toscano. Before this happened, a traveler could go a short distance and find himself lost because he could not express himself or communicate effectively: the regional dialects were so different, one from the other.

Still today, older Italians will speak their local dialect among themselves, and this is also noticeable in America where Italians emigrated beginning in the late 19th Century and whose progeny only heard one form of Italian growing up; that is, the dialect of their grandparents and great grandparents. So, Italian-Americans from Bari, for example still speak that dialect while those from Sicily or Naples speak their particular dialect so that we find in America today that the inability to communicate among the dialects still exists here as it did in Italy almost two hundred years ago.

True, we love life, not because we are used to living, but because we are used to loving. There is always some madness in love, but there is also always some reason in madness.

Francesco Petrarch
Italian Scholar



Dante Alighieri

Thanks to Dante Alighieri (1265-1321) and Francesco Petrarca, known as Petrarch (1304-1374), all Italians today speak toscano. Both poets wrote in their native dialect instead of Latin and both poets left great influential literary works to posterity. Dante's *Divina commedia* is considered Italy's greatest modern epic. It is the story of Dante's poetic trip through Hell and Purgatory guided by the classic Latin poet, Virgil, (see *Aeneid*) and then to Paradise by his poetic mistress, Beatrice.

Petrarch's great opus is his *Canzoniere* (Songs), a work of 366 sonnets, dedicated to his mistress (poetic and possibly real-life), Laura. Petrarch, a scholar of Antiquity and a humanist, was named poet laureate of Italy during his lifetime. His sonnets became the source of European Renaissance literature, especially in France and England.

The Italian sonnet is a 14-line poem of 10 syllables composed of an octave and a sestet with the following rhyme scheme at the end of the line:

abba abba (the 8-line octave)
cde cde (the 6-line sestet can have other rhyme variations) .

The English sonnet, also known as the Shakespearean sonnet, uses 10-syllable lines of iambic pentameter meter with the following rhyme scheme:

abab cdcd efef gg (the last two lines are called a heroic couplet).

The French sonnet (see poet Pierre de Ronsard) is composed of a twelve-syllable alexandrine line of poetry with an octave and sestet as well as reference to a poetic mistress similar to Petrarch's. In fact, it was a form of flattery to imitate, even translate the poems of Petrarch into the foreign language.

The influence of Dante and Petrarch as the source of modern spoken and written Italian is undeniable and is the subject of much interesting linguistic scholarship. We owe them both a great debt for their insistence on writing in the vernacular.



Petrarch

ITALIAN FILM SERIES

All films are shown at the Norris Center (755 8th Ave. South.) It is located at the corner of 8th Avenue South and 8th Street South. The showings begin at 6:45 pm
Chairpersons: Richard Cappalli and Nancy Menaldi-Scanlan.
For more information, call the ICS Information Line at 434-3323



LA PIVELLINA (THE LITTLE GIRL)
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2015 **2009** **100 minutes**

Bathed in the neo-realistic tradition of Rossellini and De Sica, Little Girl is a captivating tale of people at the margins of society who open their hearts to strangers. In a run-down park on the outskirts of Rome, a two-year-old girl is discovered and taken in by a family of hard-luck circus performers. A note in the child's pocket from a desperate mother reveals little about who she is or why she was left there. As the bond grows between the girl and her surrogate family, the naturalistic drama becomes a revealing and soulful portrait of courage and discrimination, and of loss and togetherness. "Captivating!" NY Times. "Bittersweet yet often joyful. One of the year's most delightful finds." Toronto Weekly



MACCHERONI (MACARONI)
MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2015 **1985** **114 minutes**

Macaroni is an Italian comedy selected as the Italian entry for Best Foreign Language film at the 85th Academy Awards. Jack Lemmon plays a successful but physically exhausted pill-popping American businessman going through a divorce. He visits Naples and spends several days there as guest of a local business acquaintance played by Marcello Mastroianni who is a laid-back family man. In the process Lemmon's character learns how to relax and enjoy the good life.



BENVENUTI AL NORD (WELCOME TO THE NORTH)
Monday, January 11, 2016 **2011** **105 minutes**

Your favorite Italian comedians are back in a sequel to the hilarious "Welcome to the South." Alberto has returned to Milan and has been given a special project: to improve postal efficiency by 500% (a typical move in the North!). He is kicked out of the house. Meanwhile, Mattia, accused of being an immature adolescent by his beautiful Maria, goes North to the Milan postal service to prove he can separate from his mother and be mature. Naturally, he teams up with Alberto and the two engage in a wild scheme.



LA RAGAZZA DEL LAGO (THE GIRL BY THE LAKE)
MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2016 **2007** **96 minutes**

Winner of 10 Donatello Awards, this intricate crime thriller follows inspector Giovanni Sanzio (Toni Servillo) as he leaves the big city behind to investigate the murder of a young woman in an alpine country village where startling secrets are buried. Nearing retirement and burdened with family problems, Sanzio is distracted at first but soon finds himself drawn deeper into the web of lies spread by villagers intent on concealing the truth. Good plot and excellent acting. Beautiful Northern Italy scenery and terrific color.

Continued from page 1

Because of the sheer number of historical persons and artifacts, ICS will spend two years covering the Tuscan cultural legacy. Seven Tuscan localities are listed as World Historical Sites and are, therefore, subjects of interest and study. They include Florence, Siena, Pisa, San Gimignano, Pienza, the Val d'Orcia and the Medici Villas and Gardens. The region is home to many mouth-watering gastronomic delights and world-renowned wines like the Chiantis, Montepulcianos and Brunellos.

Tuscany boasts a western coastline on the Tyrrhenian Sea that includes the island of Elba, famous as the banished home of Napoleon. And criss-crossing the region is the Appennine Mountain Range. The fertile hills of Val d'Orcia provide nutritious agricultural products, and wild boar is a favorite meat around San Gimignano. The Arno River serves as a valuable commercial resource bringing industry and trade to Florence, Pisa and other cities. And within those Tuscan cities are museums, like the Uffizi and Pitti Palace, the Boboli and Medici Gardens, the Accademia, and numerous churches as well as the famous cathedral and Leaning Tower of Pisa, and other Renaissance monuments throughout the region making for a treasure trove of sites to study.



Tuscany, cypress road in the beautiful green hills



Ribollita, traditional Tuscan soup

The history of Tuscany is similar to other parts of Italy as is seen in the many historical artifacts displayed in museums of the region. First, there were the Greeks who arrived during the Bronze and Iron Ages, having come via the Aegean Sea bringing trade to the region. Then the Etruscans established the first major civilization sometime during the 8th, 7th and 6th Centuries BC. By the 1st Century, the Romans settled there and established the cities of Lucca, Pisa, Siena and Florence building roads ("All roads lead to Rome"), aqueducts, buildings, sewage systems and lasting until about the 5th Century AD. The Goths then invaded and the Byzantine Empire left its mark there as well. Thereafter the Longobards arrived and established Lucca as the capital city of their Duchy of Tuscia.

The Medieval Period saw many pilgrims traveling the route between France and Rome (Via Francigena) bringing with them trade and the establishment of communities around churches and taverns. During this time, the 12th and 13th Centuries, the Papacy in Rome became very strong, had its own army, and acquired lands and power. In the process, the often violent struggle between the supporters of the Church (the Guelphs) and the Holy Roman Empire (the Ghibellines) split the Tuscan people as it did in other regions like Emilia Romagna, for example, and created an anti-Papacy tradition that exists even until today. Emanating from this struggle was the rise of rich and powerful city states in Tuscany; namely, Arezzo (bronze, gold, on trade route), Florence (all sorts of trades and a port city), Lucca (banking and silk), Pisa (a port city), and Siena (banking). Florence had early become the principal city and capital of the region sometime in the 12th Century and had established the Republic of Florence. The Medici family was granted hereditary rights to monarchical control in Florence and, by the Renaissance, dominated all of Florentine cultural life as well as having annexed or bought whole cities, in particular, Arezzo, Pisa, Livorno and later, Siena. Keep in mind, however, that political control was not the dominant factor yet; it was Florence's linguistic, cultural and geographical dominance that carried the day. The Medicis were finally extinct by 1737 when the French influence arrived, staying until 1860 and the new kingdom of Italy.

(Info taken from articles in *Wikipedia*.)



The old fortress Fortezza Nuova in Livorno Tuscany,

“ICS Member’s Corner” Italians, Jews and World War II

Recently, I had occasion to see the 2014 documentary film called, “My Italian Secret: The Forgotten Heroes.” It began by recalling the great Italian cyclist of the generation before the War, Gino Bartali. He was born in Florence in 1914 and started work as a mechanic in a bicycle shop before he turned to professional cycling. After winning the Giro d’Italia in 1936 and 1937, he was persuaded to enter the prestigious Tour de France in 1938. With the weight of all Italy on his shoulders, he won the Tour to his country’s great satisfaction. He was now an international hero! Then came the War and Prime Minister Benito Mussolini’s National Fascist Party which had already sided with Hitler in a series of Pacts, including the 1938 Manifesto of Race which disenfranchised and voided the citizenship of all Italian Jews which would lead to a mass exodus from northern Italy. Il Duce then declared himself Dictator and even allowed German soldiers to train with his Black Shirts. Anyone harboring Jews was sent with them to Auschwitz and other German labor camps. That gave rise to an army of underground Partisans, and this is the thrust of the documentary and the part played by Bartali.



Gino Bartali after finishing the Tour de France from the film “My Italian Secret”

Because he was always in training bicycling all over Tuscany, and a familiar face to one and all, his underground activities went completely unsuspected by the Italian and German fascisti. He would carry fake passports and identification cards rolled and inserted in the hollow tubular body of his bicycle and deliver them to Assisi and elsewhere. He told no one, not even his wife. He was a friend of a Bishop who sent Italian Jewesses to the Assisi Convent where they dressed and lived as nuns until their new ID papers arrived, and they could then meet up with their husband or father and travel south. The Jewish men would be housed in small, neighboring villages where all the townspeople protected them until their eventual escape. Some 9,000 persons escaped this way.



Partisans in 1944 Italy in a scene from the film “My Italian Secret”

The film features three aged women who had made it to safety and have now returned to visit and thank the children and grandchildren of their Italian protector-hosts. It ends with Gino Bartali's aged son explaining that just before Gino’s death, he told his son of his wartime doings. There is a plaque in Rome honoring Gino who, incidentally, returned to France in 1948 and won the Tour a second time.

This film is accessible through Netflix. If an ICS member would like to share his/her trip, story, review or anecdote relating to our current region of study (Tuscany), please send it to Joe Crivelli. We will try to include it in *Amici*, when possible. We cannot promise to return it, and it is subject to editorial emendation.

Dr. Joe Crivelli

Reservation Procedure

Information Line: 239-434-3323 for information. Someone will return your call as soon as possible, but it could take 24 hours or more since ICS is a totally Volunteer Organization.

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.

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

ICS does not accept credit card reservations on the Reservation Line.

Cancellation Policy: *NO Refunds will be given for any event.*

Exchanges: Reservations may be exchanged with other ICS members on the website. The "user name" is ICS. The "password" is Italy (case sensitive.)

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 \$80 for couples and \$40 for individuals. Dues may be submitted at any time but must be received by November 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.

Full Time Residents: When sending in your dues, please be sure to check the box that tells if you are a full time member or here only during Season. If you don't check the "Full Time Member" box, you won't receive information about the Summer Dinners!!! If you send in your dues and forget to check this box, send an e-mail to: businessmanager@essofnaples.com and ask to be put on the "Full Time List"

Membership forms are available at all events and online at our website www.italianculturalsociety.com.

Italian Cultural Society Officers 2015-2016

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