

Special Summer Edition

ICS Celebrates Tenth Anniversary in 2008



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The ICS Board has been working through the summer making plans for the coming 2007/2008 season. We hope you will find this surprise summer issue of *amici* useful in noting the programs you would like to attend. Before we get into the details of what to expect, our newly elected Board would like to extend a very warm welcome to our 51 new members. We hope you will enjoy the coming program of events and that it will help you to grow in your knowledge and appreciation of the beautiful country of Italy. Since we are looking forward to meeting you, please come to a special event for new members and volunteers which is being held in November. *amici* will keep you posted on the details of this important gathering.

As of May 9, 2007, there are 607 members, 363 household addresses and 247 email addresses in the ICS data base. Many have been with the Society since its infancy when founders Joe Delfino, Edith Coleman and Nick DeRusso (now deceased) met in Edith's

living room and conceived the idea of a society focused on the preservation of our rich Italian culture. That was the beginning and now we are looking back on ten years of ICS history. We will celebrate this important milestone with a gala anniversary event at **The Club at Pelican Bay on April 6, 2008**. Please note the date change from March 15, 2008, as was announced in the spring issue of *amici*. The Club can accommodate 280 of our members so mark your calendars today to assure you will be among the celebrants.

Co-Chairs Anthony Abbate, Adam Crescenzi, Eileen Iaizzo, and Sue Luconi, their committee, Linda Cardillo, Edith Coleman, Linda Crescenzi and Arlene Diorio with advisor Alessandra Higgs are well into their planning. They are consulting with chefs who will direct the presentation of a fine four course Italian meal. There will also be music and entertainment. *amici* will give you all the details as they become available so stay tuned.

Italian Cultural Society: The President's Perspective

Cari Amici,

When you receive this *amici* you may be at your homes in the north or on a vacation. We hope you have safe travels and are looking forward to your summer and fall activities. For many of you who live in Southwest Florida all year we hope you have an enjoyable summer. We are producing this special edition of *amici* so you will have advance information for planning your attendance at our coming events, which extend from October through April. In this issue of *amici* we are presenting you with information about our programs, past and present, and a vision for our Society's future direction. The Board works to serve the Society by presenting programs that represent our culture and help us to enjoy and celebrate our Italian heritage. We want you, our members, to be able to take part in as many programs as you can, to provide input and to be as involved in the Society as much as possible.

As you know, we are in the quiet period of our activities within the Italian Cultural Society. Except for the special Summer Luncheon Program arranged by volunteer member Joyce LeCatta for June through September, there are no scheduled events. Other sections of this *amici* will inform you of the calendar of events the program committee, headed by Joe Delfino and Ron Diorio, is working on and you will read about the Society's needs in accomplishing its goals for the 2007/2008 season. We are planning events that include visual and performing arts; opera and musical entertainment from different regions of Italy; a new seminar series on literature; luncheons

and brunches with guest speakers who will speak on historical as well as modern day topics related to Italian culture; an updated cinema series; cooking demonstrations and wine tastings; our tenth anniversary special dinner celebration; and a new event in recognition of our many volunteer workers. There are many opportunities for our members to enjoy the many aspects of our Italian culture, past and present. To help our various committee chairpersons, the Board of Directors is inviting members who are interested in serving on committees to attend a New Member/Volunteer Coffee planned for this fall to discuss the different opportunities to participate in the planning and execution of our events. Look for your invitation and mark the date for the New Member/Volunteer Coffee.

At the April meeting the Board of Directors elected me as President to serve for the next two years. It is an honor for me to be elected and it is my intention to lead the Society to the fulfillment of its mission. In paving the way for the future, it is my hope that The Italian Cultural Society of Naples will be providing the highest quality programs, which explore and provide education in the many facets of Italian culture, of any city in Southwest Florida. I look forward with enthusiasm, promise and high expectations for the next season of the Italian Cultural Society.

Cordiali saluti,

Adam Crescenzi, President

Art Lovers Special

**Joint Luncheon Program with
Naples Art Association
Monday, October 22**

In celebration of Italian Heritage Month, ICS and NAA are teaming up to offer an art presentation by an Italian artist for our combined memberships. The event will be held at The von Liebig Art Center on Monday, October 22. A buffet lunch,

provided by an Italian restaurant, will precede the discussion.

Attendance is free to our members and is offered on a first come, first served basis. The von Liebig gallery holds a limited number of guests so we have arranged that up to 50 of our members will be allowed to enter the gallery starting at 11:15 AM. At this time we will have a chance to meet and speak with the artist personally. Although we cannot take reservations, please let us know if you plan to attend by calling the ICS reservation hotline.

Food and Summer Friendship I Ghiottoni Go To Lunch

We hope that members who remain in town for the summer months will take advantage of the summer luncheon program organized by volunteer Joyce LeCatta. The strictly social luncheons have always been very popular and are held June through September. By this time you have received your dining schedules and have been enticed by the mouth-watering menus which Joyce has arranged. Call her at 594-0335 if you have questions.

Food for the Mind La Serie Culturale

La Serie Culturale, our brunch/discussion series, continues this coming season at Stonebridge Country Club with some interesting new topics. Unless otherwise noted, we will use the same format as last year with Sunday brunch at any time between 10:30AM and 12:30PM followed by our discussion in the Magnolia Room, but at 1:00PM instead of 2:00PM. The winter session, beginning in January, will feature five brunch/discussion programs covering a wide range of subjects including the influence of Italian music, notable modern day Italians, a study of a chosen Italian region, a topic of literature and a focus on an era of the country's history. Details of these programs will appear in later issues of *amici*.

Lunch/Discussion Program Sunday, October 14

ICS will hold a special early bonus program in the *Serie Culturale* on **Sunday, October 14**. After lunch at Stonebridge, Art Director Edith Coleman will lead a discussion of 19th century Italian artists. There will be a power point presentation of the artwork presently in the Gilgore Museum of Naples. The

Gilgore has the most extensive collection of works by Italian artists of that period in the world. The review of these works will prepare interested members for Director Coleman's guided tour of the museum at a later date. Lunch is priced at **\$12 to \$15** and is served from 11:30AM to 1:00PM in the Stonebridge Country Club dining room. The discussion will start at 1:00PM sharp in the Magnolia Room. There is no prepayment for lunch but reservations are necessary for the free discussion.

Taste and Talk – the Wines of Italy Wine Tasting, Wednesday, November 14

I Bacchi, our wine tasting group, is planning three regional tastings this coming season. This year we will focus primarily on a discussion of the tasting wines of the regions we select. Our events will be held at Haskell's Wine Store on Pine Ridge Road. The first event will be on Wednesday, November 14, starting at 5:30 PM. We will have tastings also in January and March with dates still to be set. Attendance will be limited so please reserve as early as possible.

EVENTS CALENDAR

At the May Board meeting program co-chairmen Joe Delfino and Ron Diorio submitted an exciting program plan which we would like to share with our members. For your planning purposes, this calendar features a summary of our programming for the remainder of 2007 and a few teasers in the works for 2008. Our September issue will have a completed calendar.

- October** Sun. Oct .14: Lunch/Discussion at Stonebridge Country Club, 19th Century Art, 11:30AM.
Mon.Oct. 22: Joint Luncheon program with Naples Art Association,
The von Leibig Center, 11:15AM.
- November** Tues. Nov. 6: Italian Film, 7:00PM, Norris Center, "My Mother's Smile"
Weds. Nov.14: Wine Tasting at Haskell's. 5:30PM
Date to be set: New Member/Volunteer Coffee
- December** Tues. Dec. 4: Italian Film, 7:00PM, Norris Center. "Io Non Ho Paura" (I'm not Afraid)
Sat. Dec. 8: "Cosi Fan Tutte". Miami Opera, followed by dinner at Cacao Restaurant,
Coral Gables
Thur. Dec13: Christmas Party
- January** Mon. Jan. 21: Philadelphia Piano Quartet and Steffanie Pearce at Sugden Theater,
inauguration concert for tenth anniversary celebration.
Thur. Jan. 31: General Meeting and regional dinner featuring cuisine of Puglia.
Please call Ron Diorio, 239-594-0260, if you have any knowledge about the history and
culture of Puglia.
- February** Tues. Feb.12, 19, 26: Introduction of our new Italian literature seminars.
- March** Sun. Mar. 2; Brunch with special guest speaker on the influence of Italian music.
Stonebridge, 1:00PM.
Thur. Mar.6: Organ recital with organist from Italy.
Weds. Mar.12: Luncheon with special guest speaker on Baroque art.
- April** Sun. April 6: 10th Anniversary dinner celebration. The Club at Pelican Bay.
Date not set: Italian cooking demonstration.

===== **Everyone Loves the Movies** ===== *Il Cinema Italiano*

Our film series will have six offerings this coming season. Showings, beginning in November, will be held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00PM at the Norris Center. An exception to this rule will be in January when our movie will be shown on the 15th which is the second Tuesday. The films will be preceded by an introduction and followed by a

discussion for those who are interested in remaining after the viewing.

Selections made so far are "My Mother's Smile" for November 6 and "Io Non Ho Paura," made famous by the book of the same name, for December 4. Both films are recent and have been well-received. *amici* will offer detailed reviews in the next issue.

For December

A Day At The Opera With ICS

**Cosi Fan Tutte, Miami Opera,
Saturday, December 8**

We have just 50 tickets for the Miami Opera performance of "Cosi Fan Tutte" on Saturday, December 8! Dinner at Cacao Restaurant, Coral Gables, a new venue for us, will follow the opera. The total cost is \$121 and includes the bus, dinner and opera. Reserve early to avoid disappointment.

We Celebrate Christmas Together

Thursday, December 13, Christmas Party!

For ICS members and guests, we will celebrate Christmas with a party on Thursday, December 13, at Kensington Country Club, located on Pine Ridge Road east of Airport Road. The festivities will start at 5 PM and will include music, antipasti and a selection of sweets. A cash bar including Italian wines will be available for those who want to enhance their singing voices as we all join in to welcome the season with Christmas carols. Singing is not obligatory!

Attenzione!

Chiacchieroni di ICS

As a possible late entry to our calendar, our ever searching and creative program genies have come up with another fantastic program idea. All Italian speaking members who would like the opportunity to join other Italian lovers for an Italian only conversation, be on the look-out for more details about *Una Chiacchierata Italiana* for the month of November.

HELP! A Call for Volunteers

In order to offer this ambitious program, we need the help of our members. Please consider how you can contribute with your time and talents. If you can help with Program, Public Relations, Hospitality, Web Technology, *amici* Newsletter or Fund Raising, please contact any Board member whose phone numbers are in your ICS directory. Find out more by attending a coffee we will hold for new members and volunteers in November. The Board of Directors will be present to meet you and answer any questions you may have. A light fare of coffee and pastries will be served. An RSVP invitation will be mailed to invited members when details are finalized.

ICS Opera Lovers, READ THIS!

Did you know that Regal Cinemas is now showing full length operas of live performances filmed at the New York Metropolitan at a ticket price of only \$18.00? There is one such location nearby in Ft. Myers. Special satellite and projection equipment is required and is being installed in other selected theaters around the country for these showings. Would you like to see this opportunity come to Naples or Bonita Springs? You can call Regal Entertainment Headquarters in Knoxville, Tennessee at 877-835-5734 to let them know of your interest. The program is called "The Metropolitan Goes to the Movies" and it can play an important role for the future in keeping this special part of Italian culture alive.

Looking Back on 2006/2007 Season



I Medici e il Rinascimento
I Signori Diorio e Luconi

In November ICS introduced its popular wine tasting series which regularly attracted capacity crowds. Also new to the calendar was the expansion of the *Serie Culturale* which features lectures on a variety of topics. These were also extremely well attended and were preceded by an elective brunch at Stonebridge Country Club. The opera and film series were continued from prior seasons. Besides traveling to Miami's new Ziff Opera House to see *Aida*, we were able to enjoy opera performances by *Naples Opera* right here at home. The *Cinema Italiano* added a bit of excitement to its usual format by starting group discussions about the films following the showings. The ICS Italian language program continued as usual and "ICS Travelers" was introduced with the formation of an internet-based information exchange site for travelers to Italy. So far 40

members have enrolled. If you have not yet taken advantage of this great opportunity, email us at ics.naples@gmail.com to find out how to join. During the winter months we enjoyed having guest lecturers and performances by Italian musical artists who sang for us at the Norris Center. As yet another service to our members, with the cataloguing of books and films which have been collected over the years, we were able to set up an ICS lending library. This intense undertaking was accomplished by Delores Fiano who also took on the job of ICS Librarian. The Society concluded its very successful season with our first regional dinner, "Una Vera Cena Napoletana" at the Royal Wood Country Club. The dining room was appropriately adorned with creative art work on Neaplitian themes, regional flags and favors, all contributing to a colorful and festive atmosphere for all to enjoy. A specially planned meal was served while we were entertained with Italian songs by a roving musician. A superb way to end our busy season!

Board News

Election of New Directors: At the end of the last season ICS elected Linda Cardillo, Joe D'Annunzio, Ron Diorio, Dr. Charles Lomanto and Fred Luconi as new Directors of the Board. Eileen Iaizzo was appointed at the April meeting to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Director Alessandra Higgs. New officers elected at that same meeting were President Adam Crescenzi, 1st Vice President Anthony Abbate, 2nd Vice President Fred Luconi, and Treasurer Rose Parapiglia. On behalf of the membership, the Board of Directors recognizes the following Directors who have resigned this past year after several years of dedicated service and commitment to the Society: Liana Buysee, Joe Delfino, Calvin Gaeta, and Alessandra Higgs.

New Committees Formed: President Adam Crescenzi has designated the following committees and their chairmen. If you have a particular interest or would like to help with any of these committees or just have a comment, the chairmen would welcome your calls.

Program: Joe Delfino, 353-1842 and
Ron Diorio, 594-0260

Membership: Anthony Abbate, 254-9730

Budget: Fred Luconi, 566-3109 or 508-477-5065

Italian Classes: Dr. Charles Lomanto, 775-7821

Nominating: Linda Cardillo, 597-8577

Website: Fred Luconi, 566-3109 or 508-477-5065

amici: Filomena Raia, 594-2851

continued on page 7

Italian Classes: The ICS Board has decided to give our Italian language program a new look for the coming season. The language committee is considering new ways to create a stimulating and useful program for our participating students. Watch for future updates on our progress and consider taking advantage of this opportunity to improve your Italian language skills. There are so many reasons to become acquainted with this beautiful living language. Travel, food and wine, literature, art and music to mention just a few.

Website Update: The Board voted to have Chairman Fred Luconi look into hiring professional assistance in establishing an official ICS website. It was generally felt that the web will continue to grow as a very important communication tool now and in the future. Advice from any of our members having particular knowledge in this area would be welcome.

ICS Travelers: This unique travel information exchange site has been set up exclusively for ICS members. So far 40 households have signed on to take advantage of this opportunity to ask questions and share information about travel in Italy. If you would like to know more you may email us ics.naples@gmail.com.

ICS Board has new Recording Secretary: Thank you to Peg Mauter who has ably served the Board as Recording Secretary for the past year. Peg is extremely competent, dedicated and well informed about our Society, having served it in numerous capacities over many years. Peg's shoes are difficult to fill but we are fortunate in being able to welcome Delores Fiano, who also serves as ICS Librarian, as our new Recording Secretary. Delores comes to us with well established credentials and administrative expertise. Thank you, Delores, for accepting this demanding role.

Library Notice
Librarian Delores Fiano has announced that the ICS library will be closed for the season from June 1 to September 1.

Important 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. In an effort to more equitably allocate operational costs, the Board has voted to raise dues for couples from \$50 to \$60 for the 2007/2008 season. Single membership dues remain at \$35. Payments may be submitted at any time but must be received no later than November 1, 2007. Per our usual policy, dues paid after April 1, 2007 will be valid through October 31, 2008 and will be \$60 for couples. Name tags will be mailed to all new members if requested and we ask that you wear them to all events. If you need to replace your name tag or have any question regarding membership, please contact Vice President and Membership Chairman Anthony Abbate, 254-9730. For your convenience new blue membership registration forms will now be available at all our events, by phone or by email, veronicaabbate@earthlink.net.

Reservations Procedure

24/7 Reservation Line: 513-4123. Clearly state your full name, phone number, number and full names of your guests and name of the event you are reserving. Give menu choices and seating preferences when requested by amici. All luncheons will be priced at **\$25** for members and **\$28** for non-members. Please make your payments for all events as early as possible and no later than five days prior to the event. Newsletter articles will indicate if there is a deductible portion of the ticket. If so, payments are to be made to the Italian Cultural Foundation, **ICF**, and you will receive a tax deduction summary, if requested, before the end of the tax year. Otherwise payments are to be made to **ICS** as usual. Please note payments can now be made with credit cards over the phone (**513-4123**). If you are paying by check, **please send separate checks for each event you are reserving.** Checks 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.

See page 7 for Important Membership Information

Italian Cultural Society

of Naples, Florida, Inc.
PMB 104 6017 Pine Ridge Road
Naples, FL 34119-3956

Phone: (239) 513-4123 Fax: (239) 353-1842 e-mail: ics.naples@gmail.com

Italian Cultural Society Officers

President: Adam Crescenzi
First Vice President: Anthony Abbate
Second Vice President: Fred Luconi
Treasurer: Rose Parapiglia

Directors

Linda Cardillo
Edith Cardiello Coleman
Joseph D'Annunzio
Ron Diorio
Eileen Iaizzo
Tony Izzo
Dr. Charles Lomanto
Filomena Raia

President Emeritus: Joseph Delfino

Recording Secretary/Librarian: Delores Fiano