I hope everyone has had a good summer and that it will eventually turn into an *Estate di San Martino*, the Italian expression for Indian Summer, referring to a time of mild weather after the first frost. St. Martin’s day is on November 11, at which time, traditionally, the new wine can be tasted. Carducci even wrote a poem about it that you can find on Italian Wikipedia.

Speaking of tasting, I am sorry I missed our first social meeting of the season at which those of you who attended got to enjoy tasting the spirit drinks from *Don Ciccio & Figli* Board member Dennis Siracusa has written about this on page 10 of this issue. There will be another tasting at our November meeting – this time of wine brought by wine expert Laurent Guinard.

For our October meeting, where I hope to see many of our members, our guest is Italian pianist Alessandra Garosi who will lead a multi-media program combining her own live piano recital with video on the music and life of Nino Rota, who wrote the scores for many of the movies by Fellini. A more complete description of the program and Ms. Garosi’s background is on page 4.  

As your new president I would like to renew a request for you, the individual members of ICS, to help make membership in our society as interesting and as rewarding as possible.

We have a space on our membership application form for “volunteer skills”. I recently was browsing through our data base in which this information is recorded in search of someone with particular skills and was frankly disappointed at how frequently this item was left blank.

I am certain that we have an impressive reserve of talent that could help in a variety of ways such as writing articles, speaking or finding speakers on a topic of interest, helping to organize events, and even administrative work. So let me hear from you at arrigo.mongini@verizon.net.

**Arrigo Mongini**
ITALIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM
4827 Rugby Avenue, Suite 301
Bethesda, MD 20814
Day, Evening and Weekend Classes for Adults
Serving Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC

There are introductory, intermediate and advanced courses being offered. Please make your selection from Italian Language Program Fall 2013 class schedule

Watch the website for the schedule of fall classes.

www.italianculturalsociety.org 301-215-7885

ICS Board of Directors and their Responsibilities
Arrigo Mongini, President
Ron Cappelletti, Vice President, Acting Director of the ILP
Paolo Vidoli, Treasurer and ILP budget director
Nick Monaco, Outside events, Deputy Treasurer
Joe Onofrietti, Film & hospitality
Romeo Segnan, University and museum outreach
Marie Frances, Fund raising activities, public relations
Carlo Ellena, ILP, Webmaster
Francesca Casazza, ILP, Outreach to other organizations
Dennis Siracusa, Assistant Editor, hospitality
Riccardo Cannavò, Editor of Poche Parole
Maria Wilmeth and Elio Grandi, Emeriti
Aldo Bove, Liaison in Italy

ICS Poche Parole Publication
Riccardo R. G. Cannavò, Editor
Romeo Segnan, Dennis Siracusa, Paolo Vidoli
Assistant Editors/Writers

Poche Parole is published each month from January through May and September through December. The deadline for the submission of all articles and ads for a newsletter issue is the 25th of the month preceding publication of the issue. Please send submissions via the internet to e-mail address: ics.pocheparole@gmail.com or on a computer CD/DVD to: Editor, Poche Parole, 4827 Rugby Avenue, Suite 301, Bethesda, MD 20814

Publication notice: The ICS Board reserves sole discretion for accepting any material, including ads, for inclusion in Poche Parole, pursuant to its established Publication Policy. A copy of this policy is available upon request by contacting the Editor. Advertisers appearing in Poche Parole have paid a fee or provided services in kind to ICS for publishing their respective ads. Publication of any advertisement in Poche Parole does not reflect ICS endorsement or guarantee of the advertisers’ services, products or statements. Material contained in articles published is the sole responsibility of the author and does not indicate ICS endorsement.

WELCOME TO NEW ICS MEMBERS
It is with great pleasure that we welcome those Members who have joined us recently. As we welcome them we hope that they will take advantage of all that the Society has to offer and that they will contribute with their knowledge and expertise to the success of the Society’s mission:
Amy Boccella Smith, John, Anne and Miranda Devlin, Rita A. Grieco
Yury Khrapko, Neoni Linda Mattox, Victoria McMullin, Marsha W. Sprague.

Benvenuti! Arrigo Mongini

CORNUCOPIA
Specialty Italian Food Market
8102 Norfolk Ave, Bethesda, MD
301.652.1625

Conveniently located in downtown Bethesda
Only two blocks from the ICS Office!
Gourmet deli and catering.
Featuring an extensive line of Italian Food favorites.
Italian meat and cheeses deli products, a wide range of specialty pasta, roasted vegetables, and large assortment of Italian pastries baked on premises, biscotti, cookies, cannoli & sfogliatelle.
Panini, subs, sandwiches, fresh mozzarella, imported olives oils, olives, coffees and now GELATO!
Homemade delicious Italian meals to go!
Seasonal Specialties Available
Panettone - Pandoro - Panforte
Torrone - Perugina Chocolates
LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

National Gallery of Art
Guided tours of the Italian Renaissance collection are offered regularly, free of charge. Next tour in Italian on October 8 12:00 pm. More information at (202) 842-6247 or www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/calendar/guided-tours.html?category=Guided Tours&pageNumber=1

Italian Cultural Institute (Italian Embassy)


Italian Cultural Society in partnership with the RIFE film festival:
Movie/documentary: (R)esistenza October 15 at the West End Cinema. More information at www.italianculturalsociety.org

Casa Italiana
Bicentenario Verdiano, Viva Verdi, October 12 at 7:00 PM. Tickets $25 go on sale September 15th. Contact Mr. Bruno Fusco at (301) 654-5218.

Piazza Italia
Italian Language meetup group. See website for details and an excellent calendar of Italy-related events. http://www.meetup.com/DCItalian

Antenna Italia is now on the AMICO website. Get news from Italy and information on Italian and Italian-American events as well as music & commentary in streaming audio. Log on any time at Pino Cicala’s web site www.italianamericancommunications.org
ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY
PIANO RECITAL AND MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATION
Featuring

Alessandra Garosi

Alessandra Garosi is known as one of the most versatile of contemporary pianists. Under the guidance of the Materiali Sonori label and management company, she has been involved in international music festivals and musical theater as a soloist and as part of the Harmonia Ensemble, one of the first Italian cross-over chamber music groups. Beyond her classical training, Alessandra has a life-long interest in popular, folk and cross-over music. She has collaborated with such musicians as Michael Nyman, Enrico Rava, Stefano Bollani, Harvey Sachs, Gavin Bryars, Roger Eno, Daniel Schell, and Giorgio Gaslini among others. While travelling in Australia, Alessandra met an indigenous didgeridoo player, resulting in a piano recital called Suoni dal Mondo which she toured in Italy, Germany and Slovenia.

Ms. Garosi studied in USA from 1986 to 1988 at Indiana University. She has performed as a chamber member and as soloist in Latin America, major European cities. In Australia she performed at the Italian Embassy in Canberra, played in Sydney Town Hall, the Perth Italian Consulate, Adelaide, Melbourne, Ballarat, and for musigramma management at Sydney Opera House in November 2011.


Next, there will be a video presentation on the music and life of Nino Rota*, famed composer of musical scores of films by Fellini and other directors.

As an encore Ms. Garosi will play her interpretation of Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue

There will be a raffle, and light refreshments will be served after the concert

3:00 PM, Sunday, October 20, Friendship Heights Village Center, 4433 South Park Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815
Admission free

- Fellini’s film The White Sheik, with score by Nino Rota, will be shown at 1:00 PM, as the ICS Movie of the Month, at the same location.
Giovanni “Nino” Rota was one of the greatest musical composers of the 20th century. Born into a musically inclined family in Milan, he was a child prodigy. Nino wrote the oratorio *L’infanzia di San Giovanni Battista* when he was eleven and performed it live the next year in Paris. His next work *Il Principe Porcaro* was published when he was only fifteen. As Nino matured, he became enamored with composing music for the cinema. Nino wrote over 150 film scores for Italian and international productions from the 1930s until his death in 1979. Rota averaged three film scores a year for forty six years! His most productive decade was from the late 1940s to the late 1950s, with a staggering thirteen film scores in 1954 alone. It is during this period of his career that Nino Rota wrote the prolific music for *The White Sheik* (1958). Please join the Italian Cultural Society as we view *The White Sheik* for the October film of the month. In Italian with English subtitles.

Two young newlyweds from a provincial town, Wanda (Brunella Bovo) and Ivan Cavalli (Leopoldo Trieste), arrive in Rome for their honeymoon. Wanda is obsessed with the "White Sheik" (Alberto Sordi), the hero of a soap opera photo strip and sneaks off to find him, leaving her conventional, petit bourgeois husband in hysterics as he tries to hide his wife's disappearance from his strait-laced relatives who are waiting to go with them to visit the Pope. The plotline was re-used by Woody Allen in his film *To Rome with Love*. The soundtrack was composed by Nino Rota.

**IL FILM DEL MESE**

Due giovani sposi provenienti da una città di provincia, Wanda (Brunella Bovo) e Ivan Cavalli (Leopoldo Trieste), arrivano a Roma per la loro luna di miele. Wanda è ossessionata dallo "Sceicco Bianco" (Alberto Sordi), l'eroe di una soap opera fotografica a fumetti e scappa dal marito in cerca dell'attore protagonista lasciando il marito, un piccolo borgese, in crisi isterica mentre cerca di nascondere la scomparsa della moglie ai suoi parenti che sono in attesa di andare con loro a visitare il Papa. La trama è stata riutilizzata da Woody Allen nel suo film *A Roma con Amore*. La colonna sonora è stata composta da Nino Rota.
At the ICS November 17 Social Meeting we will be treated to a wine tasting presentation of a variety of Italian wines by wine expert Laurent Guinand, PhD, President of GiraMondo Wine Adventures. Laurent is from Lyon, France not far from the Beaujolais Region. He started his career promoting the French wines in the US with Food & Wines from France, Inc. Laurent writes professionally for Wine Business International. He has conducted numerous wine tasting presentations in the DC metro area, including at many Embassies, at the Smithsonian, the Metropolitan Cooking and Entertaining Show as well as trade conferences such as Winevolution in Paris.

IL NOSTRO SOCIAL MEETING DI NOVEMBRE
Di Nick Monaco ICS Vice Tesoriere

Il 17 novembre si terrà il nostro social meeting mensile; il Presidente della GiraMondo Wine Adventures Dott. Laurent Guinand, intratterrà il pubblico con una degustazione di vini. Guinand è di Lione, in Francia non lontano dalla regione di Beaujolais. Ha cominciato la sua carriera come promoter di vini francesi in USA con la società Food & Wines from France, Inc. Guinand scrive per la rivista Wine Business International. Ha diretto numerose degustazioni nell’area metropolitana di DC, incluso molte ambasciate, la fondazione Smithsonian e il Metropolitan Cooking and Entertaining Show. Guinand ha anche relazionato in molte conferenze come il Winevolution a Parigi.

ITALIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM FOR KIDS
4827 Rugby Avenue, Suite 301
Bethesda, MD 20814

We are very pleased to announce “Italian for Kids”. These classes aimed at children from 6-10, come in two flavors: one is for the children who come from homes in which Italian is spoken, and who know some Italian, but for whom it is a second language. The second flavor “Beginning Italian for Kids” is for children who don’t know the language, but would like to learn it.

Italian Language Program Fall 2013 class schedule

www.italianculturalsociety.org 301-215-7885

THE GREAT BELZONI

The Italian Language Program is off to a fine start this fall quarter of 2013. In all, we are offering 47 courses, including some experimental new efforts (Wine/Food Pairing, and Ceramica: L’Arte e La Storia), but I want to especially tell you about an initiative to reach out to children that is meeting with success. Thanks to the vigorous efforts and careful planning of ILP steering committee and board member, Francesca Casazza, we have opened classes on Tuesday afternoons (4 to 6 pm) and Saturday mornings (10 am to noon) aimed at young children (5 to 9) (Italian for Kids) who understand Italian because it is spoken at home, but for whom it is a second language, and they do not speak it fluently. And on Friday afternoons we have opened a class for children in the same age range who are beginners, i.e., who know no Italian (Beginning Italian for Kids). We were able to open these classes because we have found a demonstrable demand in our Bethesda area location for such courses, and we hope to develop this sector with offerings in subsequent quarters that follow upon these beginner initiatives. In addition, to further support our efforts in the Language Program now that we are relying solely on revenues from all our courses to pay the bills, we have initiated a modest increase in tuitions, and we are happy to report that these increases have been readily accepted by our learning community. Finally, I want to mention an effort that will be “live” very soon, namely an entirely new website that will feature the ability for students to register on-line and pay by credit card (yes, we are finally joining the 21st century!) This site will also feature the ability of members of the Society, namely you, to pay your membership dues on-line as well, although for both class registration and membership payments, the more traditional alternative (fill out a form and mail it in with a check) will also be available. Although it was a joint effort by myself, Francesca and board member Carlo Ellena, special thanks should go to Carlo who is our new webmaster and thus who will bear responsibility for keeping the 21st century moving ahead!

IL GRANDE BELZONI
By Luciano Mangiafico

Giovanni Battista Belzoni is no longer a well-known historical figure, but in his day, he was an impressive and famous figure who died in his prime. He was a carnival performer, an explorer and an archeologist. He combined the muscle of a Charles Atlas with the dare-doo of an Indian Jones. He may even have been the inspiration for the creation of the fictional Jones.

Belzoni was born in Padua on November 15, 1778 and died on December 3, 1823 in Gwato, Nigeria while on his way to explore the legendary Timbuktu, the ancient capital of Mali. There is some indication that he was the son of a barber. He attended religious schools in Padua, went to Rome and may have studied hydraulics. What is certain is that he grew taller, stouter, stronger and more well-proportioned that the average man; his height was measured somewhere between 6’6” and 6’8”.

During Napoleon’s first invasion of Italy in 1796, Belzoni left Italy and went to Germany. There he met a group of show people that included a muscle man who when stretched between two chairs held an anvil on his abdomen while two helpers forged a horseshoe. Belzoni realized that he could earn a good living performing feats of strength.

In early 1803, Belzoni enlisted his brother, Antonio, who was 6’3” or 6’4”, into his enterprise and went to England where he performed at the Bartholomew Fair as the Young Hercules. Soon after, he appeared at the noted Sadler Wells Theater. Posters for his performance hailed him, “Signor Giovanni Battista Belzoni, the Patagonian Samson, will present most extraordinary specimens of the Gymnastic Art perfectly foreign to any former exhibition.” (Apparently he was called a Patagonian because people believed that the inhabitants of that region were giants).

Belzonis act included walking across a stage carrying from 7 to 12 people standing on an iron harness with footholds weighing 127 pounds—all this while waving a flag to solicit applause. Newspapers reported his exploits and his success drew the attention of the owners of the Astleyiuss Circus who engaged the them to tour throughout England. Sir Walter Scott wrote that Belzoni was “The most proportionate giant he had ever seen.”

He married an English woman named Sarah (1783-1870) soon after his arrival and she became part of the act. Charles Dickens described her as “A pretty delicate-looking woman” but the appearance belied her strength, appearance, intelligence, perseverance, and force of character. Sarah Belzoni accompanied her husband in his many adventures in Egypt and contributed to his writing when she authored “A Short Account of the Women of Egypt.” She dressed as a boy while in Egypt to avoid drawing undue attention.

The Belzoni brothers and Sarah continued their show business routines for years performing in many European countries until 1815. In 1815, while on tour in Malta, Giovanni and Sarah were recruited to go to Alexandria, Egypt to offer the Pasha technical expertise regarding}

Di Luciano Mangiafico

Giovanni Battista Belzoni non è più una figura storica molto conosciuta, ma al suo tempo è stata una persona veramente famosa. È stato un uomo di circo e di spettacolo, un esploratore e un archeologo. Una sorta di mix tra i muscoli di Charles Atlas e la temerarietà di Indiana Jones. La sua figura avrebbe potuto inspirare la creazione del famoso Jones che tutti conosciamo. È morto nel fiore dei suoi anni.

Belzoni nacque a Padova, il 15 novembre 1778 e morì il 3 dicembre 1823 a Gwato in Nigeria mentre cercava di raggiungere la leggendaria Timbuktu, antica capitale del Mali.

Abbiamo notizie che fosse il figlio di un barbiere. Ha frequentato una scuola religiosa a Padova e quindi a Roma sembra aver studiato idraulica. Certamente era un uomo alto, forte, robusto e molto ben proporzionato rispetto alla media; era alto circa 1,95 o 2 metri.

Durante la prima invasione napoleonica in Italia, nel 1796, Belzoni lasciò il Paese per andare in Germania. In Germania incontrò un gruppo di persone dello spettacolo tra cui un uomo molto muscoloso che restava in equilibrio tra due sedie facendo stretching con un’incudine sullo stomaco, mentre altre due persone forgiavano un ferro di cavallo sull’incudine. Belzoni capì che avrebbe potuto guadagnare bene svolgendo la professione di show-man e usando la propria forza.

All’inizio del 1803 Belzoni assunse suo fratello Antonio (alto 1,85 metri) nella sua compagina. Insieme andarono in Inghilterra dove lavorarono al Bartholomew Fair come “Giovanni Ercole”. Poco dopo, sono apparvero al ben conosciuto teatro Sadler Wells Theater. I poster delle performance in teatro parlavano di lui come “Signor Giovanni Battista Belzoni, il Sansone della Patagonia, che presenterà il più straordinario tipo di gymnastica mai visto prima in nessuna esibizione pubblica.” (sembra che il titolo di Sansone della Patagonia fosse stato creato in quanto si credeva che gli abitanti di quella regione fossero giganti di statura).

Tra le performance di Belzoni c’era camminare da un lato all’altro del palcoscenico con dei pesi per ciascuna gamba di circa 55 kg, trasportando un’asse di ferro su cui c’erano dalle 7 alle 12 persone nel frattempo svoltando una bandiera per sollecitare gli applausi del pubblico. Il successo e le notizie sulla stampa attirarono l’attenzione del proprietario del circo Asteleyius che li assunse per un lungo tour di tutta l’Inghilterra. Sir Walter Scott ha scritto che Belzoni era “Il gigante più proorzionato che le avesse mai visto”.

Belzoni sposò una donna inglese di nome Sarah (1783-1870), quasi subito dopo il suo arrivo in Inghilterra e lei divenne parte dello spettacolo. Charles Dickens la descrive come “Una donna graziosa e delicata”, ma sembra che dietro l’apparenza ci fosse una donna forte di carattere, intelligente e perseverante. Sarah Belzoni ha accompagnato suo marito in molte avventure in Egitto scrivendo il saggio “Un breve racconto delle donne in Egitto.” Mentre era in Egitto usava
irrigation. Egypt was still a part of the Ottoman Empire and was ruled by Muhammed Ali Pasha (c.1769-1849) an Albanian adventurer who had himself appointed Pasha by the Ottoman Sultan.

In the early 19th century, after the Napoleonic invasions had brought to the attention of Europeans the wonders of pharaonic civilization, and interest in Egypt, both cultural and economic, had become high. The major European powers vied for influence, sending diplomatic representatives, technical experts, and advisors. As Egypt was not yet recognized as an independent country, the diplomatic representatives were Consul Generals, but held the powers of ambassadors and in the fluid situation were able to assist the Egyptians in the exploration of their ancient monuments. However, they also enrich themselves by collecting and selling cultural artifacts.

The two most prominent diplomats in Egypt at the time were Bernardino Drovetti (1776-1852) of Turin, who were Consul General of France 1810-15 and 1820-29, and Henry Salt (1780-1827), the British Consul General from 1816 to 1827. Drovetti, also acted as military advisor to the Pasha, supplied most of the Egyptian artifacts that are now in the Louvre, and in the Museo Egizio di Torino, the most important in Europe. Salt using Belzoni to procure the artifacts, sold several collections to the British Museum and one to the Louvre. The competition among the various diplomat assigned to Egypt to procuring antiquities was intense and resulted in the so-called War of the Consuls.

Through Drovetti’s good offices, Belzoni met the Pasha and demonstrated a hydraulic pump that he had constructed. Unfortunately, the Pasha refused to finance the construction of similar devices and Belzoni found himself without a job and no way to make a living.

This time Johann Burckhardt came to his rescue, encouraging British Consul General Henry Salt to engage Belzoni to assist him in the discovery and collection of antiquities. It was inevitable that once Belzoni started to work with Henry Salt, he would become the professional enemy of his former friend Bernardino Drovetti, who vied with Salt for influence and collection of antiquities.

Belzoni’s first task was to move an enormous granite bust of Ramesses II (ruled c. 1278-1213 B.C.) from West Thebes to Alexandria for transfer to the British Museum in London. He managed and directed the activities of his 130 Arab helpers. On August 12, the bust was on the banks of the Nile and loaded on a ship for transport to London via the Cape of Good Hope (no Suez Canal then), where it arrived on December 15, 1816.

In the summer of 1817, Belzoni and his wife went to Abu Simbel to ascertain whether they could clear the sands and find the entrance to the great temple of Ramesses I (ruled c.1292-1290 B.C.). They succeeded on August 1, and by the middle of October, 20 feet underground, they discovered the sumptuous tomb of Seti I (ruled c. 1290-1278 B.C.).

These successes by a self-taught amateur grated on the nerves and self-respect of Bernardino Drovetti, who

vestire come un uomo per evitare di attrarre l’attenzione su di lei. I due fratelli Belzoni e Sarah continuarono i loro show con tournée in tutta l’Europa per molti anni facendo spettacoli in molti paesi fino al 1815. Nel 1815 mentre erano in tournée a Malta, Giovanni e Sarah furono assunti per andare ad Alessandria d’Egitto e fornire consulenza tecnica sull’irrigazione al Pashà. L’Egitto era ancora parte dell’Impero Ottomano sotto il regno di Mohammed Ali Pashà (circa 1769-1849); in particolare l’Egitto era governato da un avventuriero albanese nominato Pashà dal Sultano Ottomano.

All’inizio del XIX secolo, dopo che l’invasione di Napoleone destò l’interesse degli Europei per la civiltà dei faraoni e per l’Egitto, sia la cultura che l’economia del paese ebbero un incremento notevole. Le maggiori potenze europee cercavano di rafforzare la propria influenza in Egitto mandando le proprie rappresentanze diplomatiche, i propri tecnici e consiglieri.

A quel tempo l’Egitto non era ancora riconosciuto come uno stato sovrano e indipendente, quindi i rappresentanti diplomatici erano Consoli Generali ma avevano il potere, di fatto, di Ambasciatori in una situazione molto fluida per il paese.

In quegli anni i due più importanti diplomatici in Egitto erano Bernardino Drovetti (1776-1852) di Torino, Console Generale Francese negli anni 1810-1815 e ancora negli anni 1820-29, ed Henry Salt (1780-1827), il Console Generale britannico dal 1816 al 1827. Drovetti ha anche avuto il ruolo di consulire militare del Pashà, esportando fuori dal Paese la maggior parte dei reperti archeologici egiziani che sono attualmente esposti al Louvre e al Museo Egizio di Torino, il museo egizio più importante d’Europa. Salt ha usato Belzoni per procurare i reperti archeologici e vendere numerose collezioni di reperti al British Museum e una collezione al Louvre. La competizione tra i vari diplomatici presenti in Egitto per procurare reperti antichi è stata molto intensa e ha preso il nome di Guerra dei Consoli.

Attraverso l’attività diplomatica di Drovetti, Belzoni incontrò personalmente il Pashà dimostrandogli una pompa idraulica di sua invenzione. Sfortunatamente il Pashà rifiutò di finanziare la costruzione della pompa e Belzoni si ritrovò senza lavoro e senza i mezzi per vivere.

Belzoni iniziò quindi a lavorare col Console inglese Henry Salt, diventando inevitabilmente nemicò del suo precedente amico e mecenate Bernardino Drovetti, sempre in competizione con Salt per la collezione di reperti antichi. Il primo incarico di Belzoni fu spostare un enorme busto di granito di Ramesse II (in carica 1287-1213 a.C.) da Tebe ad Alessandria per il successivo trasferimento al British Museum di Londra. Belzoni ha organizzato e diresse le attività dei suoi 130 lavoratori arabi. Il 12 agosto il busto era sulle rive del Nilo, caricato su una nave per il trasporto a Londra via Capo di Buona Speranza (non c’era ancora il canale di Suez). Il busto arrivò a Londra il 15 dicembre 1816. Nell’estate 1817 Belzoni e la moglie si recarono ad Abu
attempted to entrap Belzoni in an enterprise that could have caused his death. Feigning friendship, he told Belzoni that he had found a huge sarcophagus in an underground labyrinth but was unable to move it because of its size and weight. Would Belzoni help? Belzoni took on the task, but he did not find the sarcophagus where it was supposed to be; moreover, he was abandoned by his Arab guides in the labyrinth and was lucky to find his way out only by following his guides’ foot tracks in the dust covering the passageways.

In February 1818, Belzoni was at Giza, exploring the great Pyramid of Cheops (ruled c. 2589-2566 B.C.). He then turned his attention to the Pyramid of Chephren (ruled c. 2558-2532 B.C.), discovered its entrance and by April had reached the hall containing the tomb of the Pharaoh.

Like the movie hero, Indiana Jones, Belzoni’s strength came in handy on many occasions. Once, attacked by a mob, it is said that he grabbed the legs of one of his assailants, lifted him in the air and swinging him around like a club hit the rest of the attackers, who after several attempts to overpower him, retreated.

To be continued on the next issue of Poche Parole.

Giovanni Battista Belzoni

Simbel per valutare la possibilità di ripulire dalla sabbia e trovare l’entrata del grande tempio di Ramesse I (in carica 1292-1290 a.C.). Belzoni e la moglie riuscirono nell’impresa e il primo di agosto trovarono l’ingresso del tempio. Inoltre ad ottobre ebbero di nuovo successo nel riportare alla luce la sontuosa tomba di Seti I (in carica 1290-1278 a.C.), nella stessa località circa 6 metri sotto terra.

Questi successi ottenuti da un autodidatta del settore irritarono molto i nervi del Console Generale Bernardino Drovetti che tentò di intrappolare Belzoni in un’impresa che avrebbe dovuto causare la sua morte. Facendo leva sulla loro amicizia Drovetti confidò a Belzoni di aver trovato un gigantesco sarcofago in un labirinto sotterraneo ma di non essere stato in grado di spostare il sarcofago a causa della misura e del peso. Belzoni accettò il lavoro ma non trovò il sarcofago, inoltre fu abbandonato dalle sue guide arabe dentro il labirinto e fu davvero fortunato a riuscire a ritrovare l’uscita seguendo le orme lasciate delle sue guide arabe nella polvere sul pavimento.

Nel febbraio 1818 Belzoni andò a Giza per esplorare la grande Piramide di Cheope (in carica 2589-2566 a.C.). Quindi si occupò della Piramide di Chefren (in carica 2558-2532 a.C.), scoprendo l’entrata in aprile e riuscendo ad arrivare alla sala contenente la tomba del faraone.

Come l’eroe dei film Indiana Jones, la forza di Belzoni fu veramente utile in molte occasioni. Una volta fu aggredito da un gruppo di uomini e si dice che abbia preso la gamba di uno di questi assalitori e alzatolo per aria lo brandiva come una mazza contro tutti gli altri; dopo molti tentativi di sopraffarlo il gruppo si ritirò.

Continua sul prossimo numero di Poche Parole.

La Firma di Belzoni all’interno della piramide di Chefren

OUR SEPTEMBER SOCIAL MEETING

IL NOSTRO SOCIAL MEETING DI SETTEMBRE
Discover the Amalfi Coast
By Poche Parole Assistant Editor Dennis Siracusa

The Italian Cultural Society began its events with a presentation by Francesco Amodeo, the owner of Don Ciccio & Figli, a purveyor of artisanal spirits. His fascinating talk described how he came to create liqueur from various fruits. He assured his listeners that even though it is more time consuming and expensive, his unique recipes rely upon juice from the natural fruit, and insisted that he would never use a package mix. He buys most of his fruits from American growers; lemons from Georgia, strawberries from Virginia and blueberries from Maine. However, he can only get prickly pears from southern Italian towns with which to make his Fico d’India.

*Don Ciccio & Figli* learned the rich history of artisanal liqueur making from the Amalfi Coast and brought to the United States a series of recipes handed down for generations. Don Ciccio's artisanal liqueurs offer a glimpse of the past with a nod to the future. Each unique handmade liqueur begins with a blend of all-natural fresh fruit, spices, and grains. Signor Amodeo assured us that his passion is to produce the best liqueur with the finest ingredients and is proud to say that quality comes before profits. His aim is not only to make just the popular limoncello, but to acquaint Americans with liqueurs of different colors. He is the only American distributor of Concerto outside the Amalfi Coast. Concerto is a dark liqueur; a concert of 15 herbs and spices, barley coffee and espresso. Another dark liqueur is Ibisco (hibiscus) made from a rare flower grown in southern Italy that arrived from Egypt centuries ago. Signore Amodeo referred us to his web sight [http://www.donciccioefigli.com](http://www.donciccioefigli.com) to see the variety of spirits that he produces and even provides his recipes to those who want to create their own taste of the Amalfi Coast.

Nick Monaco is opening the meeting
Francesco Amodeo and Nick Monaco

Jim Delker, Maria Wilmeth, and Anna Maria Delker

Romeo Segnan at the raffle desk

Silvana De Luca and Neoni Mattox
The expiration date of your membership is shown on the address label. Please renew using the form at the bottom of this page.

**ICS membership application**

Mail application to:

ICS Membership
4827 Rugby Ave., Suite 301
Bethesda, MD 20814

Please make check payable to:
The Italian Cultural Society

Name ________________ Occupation ____________________

Volunteer Skills ________________________________

Address __________________________________________

City ______________________________ State ______ Zip _________

Address Change ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐

Email _________________________ Phone _________________________

Please deliver Poche Parole by: ☐ email only ☐ email and US Mail

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Membership</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single $35</td>
<td>Platinum Sponsor $1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couple $50</td>
<td>Gold Sponsor $500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family $75</td>
<td>Silver Sponsor $250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School/College $20</td>
<td>Bronze Sponsor $100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**meeting location**

*friendship heights village center*
4433 South Park Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815