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*photo by Andrea Scott*

## In Memory

### **Luisa Vergani (1931-2009)**

Luisa Vergani was born near her beloved city of Verona in 1931, and came to the United States on board the Italian liner “Leonardo da Vinci” in 1960. She went on to continue her journey to Oakland California by bus — quite an adventure, as she didn’t speak a word of English at the time.

She taught Italian at the San Diego College for Women, now the University of San Diego, from 1961 to 1964 and was a Professor at San Diego State University in Italian Language, Literature and Culture until her retirement in 1994.

Luisa was also an expert in Dante “Divine Comedy” and she published, among other works, an interesting monograph entitled “Dante a Ravenna”.

She is survived by her sister, Giovanna Koeppe, her beloved daughter-in-law, Julie and her grandchildren.

The ICC deeply appreciates this veteran Italian teacher who contributed so very much to the spreading of the Italian language and culture in San Diego.

### **Massimo Seracini (1943-2009)**

A native of Florence, Massimo Seracini first came to the United States in the 1960s where he worked in real estate for a number of years. He traveled back and forth over the decades, eventually opening a bistro in Florence, and a high-tech diagnostics firm that authenticates work by Leonardo da Vinci and other artists.

Known for his friendliness and spirit, Massimo was always active in

the Italian community and devoted himself to promoting the cultural activities of both the ICC and the House of Italy in Balboa Park.

Passionate for his culture, he eventually got involved in politics, and tried as much as he could to help Italians living in California. He never forgot his beloved Tuscany however and often gave lectures at the ICC about the gardens of Florence and their exquisite beauty.

Mr. Seracini died January 16 after a two-year battle with cancer. He was 65. A service was held at Our Lady of the Rosary, and his ashes, accompanied by his brother and wife, were returned to his native home. He has taken his last trip and is now in heaven — chatting most likely with the poet Dante Alighieri.

# Piccola Italia



Italian Cultural Center of San Diego Newsletter

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

*March 10:* Class registration opens

*April 14:* New classes start

*April 16:* Italian Film Festival

*April 24, 25:* Art Walk

*May 17:* Festa Siciliana

*Ongoing:* Leonardo Da Vinci Experience Exhibit

*Ongoing:* House of Italy Open House

*More details on these events inside*

## NEW CLASSES AT ICC

### Canta che ti passa: Italian through songs



This new course is scheduled once a week for 6 weeks starting on Monday April 13 and ending on May 18. It is an Italian language class taught through the use of songs. A series of original songs by Italian songwriters, including Jovanotti, Gino Paoli, Claudio Baglioni and so on will be introduced in class. Then each song will be presented with a full range of communicative activities, such as games, articles, comprehension and text production exercises, grammatical activities, etc. This is an elementary, intermediate and intermediate-advanced level course. It offers a wealth of linguistic and cultural information as well as a lot of fun! Tuition is \$85, materials included.

### Storia d'Italia I

Discover the rich history of Italy and learn Italian at the same time! The course aims to give an overall idea of Italian history from Roman to modern times. It is divided in 2 classes (Storia d'Italia I and Storia d'Italia II). "Storia d'Italia I" will be held once a week for 8 weeks starting on Tuesday April 14 and ending on June 2nd. The class is designed for an intermediate/advanced Italian language proficiency level since it will be taught mostly in Italian. "Storia d'Italia II" will be offered the following quarter.

No book will be necessary; materials will be provided in class by the teacher and will be implemented with videos and clips from original films.





# CARI SOCI,

Un altro trimestre e' passato. L'anno e' iniziato molto bene con tanti programmi sia per le classi che per gli eventi culturali. Ma possiamo dire che un altro anno e' passato. L'anno fiscale dell'ICC. Come sapete in marzo ci sono sempre le elezioni del nuovo presidente e delle altre persone in carica e dopo due anni di intensa attivita' ho deciso di non ricandidarmi e lasciare il posto ad un nuovo membro, affinche' porti nuova energia e nuovi contributi.

Questo sara' infatti il mio ultimo editoriale come Presidente. Continuerò pero' a servire l'ICC come Board Member cercando, per quanto mi sara' possibile, di contribuire a creare un programma di eventi per voi soci sempre piu' interessante, come potete vedere nelle pagine successive.

Vorrei cogliere l'occasione per ringraziare tutti coloro che mi hanno supportato in questi anni con impegno e professionalita', nel lavoro di ristrutturazione dell' ICC rendendo l'offerta di eventi culturali e programmi di lingua italiana forte e solida, cosi' come a creare un ambiente piacevole e divertente. I risultati raggiunti fanno posizionare l'ICC come la piu' grande organizzazione di cultura e lingua italiana del sud della California, con circa 900 soci attivi e un programma completo di classi durante 5 giorni della settimana, sempre ricco di novita'.

Ringrazio quindi tutti i board members, in particolare Serena Camozzo, Cynthia Waage, Don Stadelli, Don Santamaria, Giuseppe Annino, Padre Grancini, e Maria Maestrini Williamson, il nostro direttore dei programmi, e tutti voi cari soci per il vostro supporto e i vostri apprezzamenti.

Good luck every body e sempre ad maiora! E soprattutto in bocca al lupo a Roberto Ruocco, il nuovo presidente dell'ICC.

Ci vediamo al prossimo evento!

Laura

Dear Members,

Another quarter has passed. The year started very well with many programs of both classes and cultural events. However we can say that another year has passed, the fiscal year of ICC. As you know in March there are the elections of the new president and officers, and after two years of intense activity I decided not to candidate myself and leave the position to another board member in order to bring new energy and new achievements.

This one will be in fact my last editorial as President. I will continue to serve the ICC as a Board Member trying as much as possible to contribute to create a program of events for our members more and more interesting as you can see in the following pages.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all those who supported me in these past years with commitment and professionalism, especially in the job of restructuring the entire organization of the ICC, making the offer of cultural events and Italian language programs strong and sound, as well as creating an environment pleasant and amusing. The achievements make ICC position as the largest organization of Italian culture and language in southern California, with about 900 members, and a complete program of Italian classes 5 days a week, always rich in new ideas.

Therefore, I thank all the board members, in particular Serena Camozzo, Cynthia Waage, Don Stadelli, Don Santamaria, Giuseppe Annino, Padre Grancini, and Maria Maestrini Williamson, our Language Program Director, and all of you dear members for your support and appreciation.

Good luck everybody and always ad maiora! And especially in bocca al lupo to Roberto Ruocco, the new president of ICC.

I'll see you at the next event!

Laura



ICC Newsletter

Published quarterly

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# ICC NEW PRESIDENT



*Roberto Ruocco, console Faganello, Laura Bianconcini, ambasciatore Castellana*

Cari Soci,

E' un piacere presentarmi a Voi come il nuovo presidente dell'Italian Cultural Center per l'anno 2009. Sono Roberto Ruocco e insegno all'ICC dal 2006.

Molti di voi mi conoscono gia' in quanto insegno in due classi di conversazione il lunedì' sera, giorno in cui gli studenti mi regalano il piacere delle ore piu' rilassanti della mia settimana di "azzeccagarbugli".

Perche' questo cambio al vertice dell'ICC, vi chiederete? Laura Bianconcini e' stata un presidente straordinario. Ha energia, sensibilita' e preparazione. Tuttavia, questo incarico, che ricordo non essere assolutamente remunerato, stanca. Il lavoro di organizzazione, direzione, e controllo di un centro culturale e' certamente tra i piu' impegnativi. Laura curera' ancora, e meglio di prima, gli aspetti organizzativi degli eventi culturali.

Questo cambio ha un fine: unire piu' persone possibili sotto la nostra bandiera culturale.

La lingua italiana nell'ultimo decennio e' diventata sempre di piu' la lingua dell'eccellenza piu' che un semplice strumento di comunicazione. L'ICC di San Diego e' diventata la prima scuola di lingua italiana nel Sud della California, dove insegnanti dedicati agli studenti e altamente qualificati raggiungono risultati eccellenti come dimostrano i giudizi espressi dai frequentatori dei Corsi.

Questo nuovo Presidente e' stato scelto dal Board per diffondere e comunicare sempre di piu' questa eccellenza. Sono il Vice Console d'Italia in San Diego, il presidente della House of Italy, e del San Diego Italian Film Festival. Partecipo con attenzione alle attivita' di molti club di Italo-Americani nella contea di San Diego, Orange e Los Angeles. Questo mi porta a conoscere realta' umane e sociali interessantissime e il bisogno di condividere la cultura, le tradizioni e soprattutto la lingua del Bel Paese.

Questa unione e' una scommessa certo, ma lavoreremo duramente e seriamente affinche' questa scommessa sia vinta e porti dei risultati tangibili in termini di crescita culturale e didattica dei nostri soci.

Grazie del vostro supporto e grazie di essere soci dell'Italian Cultural Center.

Dear Members:

It is a pleasure to introduce myself as the new President of ICC. My name is Roberto Ruocco and I have been teaching at ICC since 2006. Many of you know me already because I teach conversation classes on Monday, when the students grant me the most relaxing hours of my week of "shyster".

Why this change for ICC, you would ask? Laura Bianconcini was an extraordinary president. She is energetic, sensitive and prepared. However this duty, which is absolutely without remuneration, tires you. Organizing, directing and controlling a cultural center is an utmost engaging task. Laura will still and better take care than before of the organizational aspects of the cultural events.

This appointment has a main goal: we want to unify as many people as possible under our cultural flag. The Italian language has become more the language of excellence than a mere instrument of communication. If you want to know the art of the music, the literature, the movies you must learn Italian. The ICC is the first school of South California where dedicated and highly qualified teachers attain excellent results as reported in the survey results by the participants of the courses.

This president was chosen to try to communicate this excellence as widely as possible. I am the Vice Consul of Italy, the president of the House of Italy and San Diego Italian Film Festival.

*continued on page 4*

*continued from page 3*

I attend with attention to many Italian American clubs activities in San Diego, Orange and Los Angeles counties. I know of very interesting human social realities and of the need to partake the culture, traditions, and most of all, the language of Bel Paese.

This unity is certainly a challenge, but we will work hard and seriously in order to win this challenge and we achieve tangible results in terms of cultural and instructional of our members.

Thanks of your support and patronage of the Italian Cultural Center.



*Roberto Rucco with his family*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Art Walk

*By Dianna Ippolito*

Believe it or not it's time once again for art lovers to come together for one glorious weekend in San Diego's scenic Little Italy. On Saturday and Sunday April 25 and 26, 2009 ArtWalk, downtown's largest open-air gallery, will feature works in various mediums, including oil, acrylic, watercolor, ceramics, sculpture, photography, jewelry, art glass, pottery and more.

Stages along India Street will feature bands, and dance troupes and kid's activities such as hands-on painting, scavenger hunts, and a student art exhibit will take place at Amici Park on Date Street, three blocks east of India Street.

The festival will fill 16 city blocks from Beech Street to Fir Street, with India Street and Kettner Boulevard as the main thoroughfares through the event. The ICC will be participating in this event. Stop by to see ICC members art work.

Parking is limited to street parking and pay lots, so the MTS Trolley is a convenient and affordable way to get to the festival. The trolley stop called County Center/Little Italy is located at the edge of the event between Cedar Street and Beech Street.

**Saturday and Sunday,  
April 25 & 26, 2009  
Noon to 6 p.m.**



## Little Italy Mercato

By Dianna Ippolito

If you want to ditch your typical shopping experience and rub elbows with your community, you can now visit the Little Italy Mercato, downtown's first outdoor farmer's market. Located on Date Street from Kettner to Union, and open weekly, you will find over 70 local vendors selling home grown vegetables, fruits, herbs, house plants, flowers, coffee, cakes and much more at a price to fit anyone's wallet.

As you leisurely stroll through the stalls (dog's welcome) you will be accompanied by the sounds of live

music and treated to the tasty scent of barbeque on the grill. Booths with clothing, jewelry, and other one-of-a-kind treasures can be found as well. Hoping to become a "Zero Waste Environment", the market provides reusable shopping bags for vendors and shoppers. No plastic bags or Styrofoam allowed.

Parking is hard to come by, so take the trolley to the Little Italy stop and walk two blocks east to India and then proceed north to Date Street.

**Saturdays, 9-3:00 PM**  
**Date Street to Union Street**



*photos courtesy of Dianna Ippolito*

## The Da Vinci Experience Exhibit

Replicas and models of the mechanical devices designed and described by Leonardo da Vinci, along with reproductions of 11 of his most famous paintings. Sought after and appreciated as an artist at court, Da Vinci was also concerned with scientific subjects, applying his knowledge of mechanics to military and civil engineering works and dedicating himself to the study of anatomy, biology, mathematics and physics.

A group of Florentine artisans have spent the last half century studying the original notes and drawings of Da Vinci's various projects, and have created this international exhibition of fully-functional and interactive models of Da Vinci's creations.

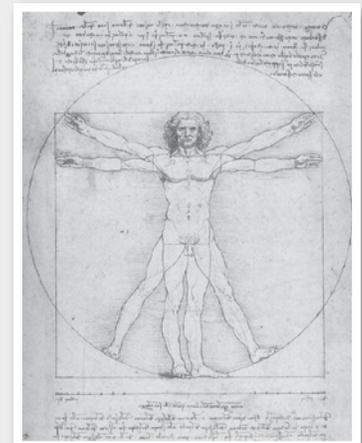
**San Diego Air & Space Museum**  
**Balboa Park**

**DATES:** Opens January 31, 2009  
Closes: January 03, 2010

**HOURS:** 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**TICKET PRICES:** Adults \$24.75

**ICC members discount available for group tours of 10 or more: \$20.75 per adult.** The ticket price includes both the DaVinci Experience and the Air & Space Museum. Must organize group tour through Dianna in the ICC office.



## House of Italy Open House

The House of Italy (HOI) in Balboa Park is open every Sunday (with few exceptions) from 12 noon to 4 p.m. for visitors.

Please stop in and speak with the hosts about the club.

Directions to the International Village can be found at: [www.balboapark.org](http://www.balboapark.org).





# Italian Adult Classes

Day / Dates	Class Title	Time	Weeks	Teacher	Price
<b>MONDAYS</b>					
4/13 – 6/22	Beginner Conversation (Requires Italiano 2)	5:30 – 6:45pm	10	Michela	\$100
4/13 – 6/22	Intermediate Conversation (Requires Italiano 3)	5:30 – 6:45pm	10	Roberto	\$100
4/13 – 6/08	NEW! Storia d'Italia (Int/adv)	6:45 – 8:15pm	8	Gabriella	\$100
4/13 – 6/29	Italiano 2	6:45 – 8:30pm	11	Michela	\$145
4/13 – 6/29	Adv Conversation & Grammar (Requires Italiano 5)	6:45 – 8:30pm	11	Roberto	\$145
<b>TUESDAYS</b>					
4/14 – 6/16	Intermediate Conversation (Requires Italiano 3)	5:30 – 6:45pm	10	Nicoletta	\$100
4/14 – 5/19	NEW! Canta che ti passa: Italian through songs	5:30 – 7:00pm	6	Gabriella	\$100
4/14 – 6/23	Italiano 1	6:45 – 8:30pm	11	Silvia M	\$145
4/14 – 6/23	Italiano 6	6:45 – 8:30pm	11	Nicoletta	\$145
<b>WEDNESDAYS</b>					
4/15 – 6/17	Beginner Conversation (Requires Italiano 2)	5:30 – 6:45pm	10	Chiara	\$100
4/15 – 6/24	Italiano 1	6:45 – 8:30pm	11	Maria	\$145
4/15 – 6/24	Italiano 3	5:30 – 6:45pm	11	Rossella B.	\$145
4/15 – 6/24	Italiano 4	6:45 – 8:30pm	11	Chiara	\$145
4/15 – 6/24	Italiano 5	7:15 – 9:00pm	11	Rossella B.	\$145
4/15 – 6/3	Italian for Travelers	6:45 – 8:15pm	8	Laura	\$150
<b>THURSDAYS</b>					
4/16 – 6/25	Parent & Me – for toddlers and parents	10:30 – 11:30am	11	Gabriella	\$150
4/16 – 6/25	Italiano 1 at Lunch (intensive)	12:30 – 1:30pm	11	Eleonora	\$120
4/16 – 6/25	Italiano 2 at Lunch (intensive)	12:30 – 1:30pm	11	Gabriella	\$120
4/16 – 6/25	Italiano 3 at Lunch (intensive)	12:30 – 1:30pm	11	Roberta	\$120
<b>SATURDAYS</b>					
4/11 – 6/20	Beginner Conversation (Requires Italiano 2)	9:15 – 10:30am	10	Maria	\$100
4/11 – 6/20	Intermediate Conversation (Requires Italiano 3)	9:15 – 10:30am	10	Eleonora	\$100
4/11 – 6/27	Italiano 3	9:00 – 10:45am	11	Simonetta	\$145
4/11 – 6/27	Italiano 1	10:45am – 12:30pm	11	Francesca	\$145
4/11 – 6/27	Italiano 2	10:45am – 12:30pm	11	Gabriella	\$145
4/11 – 6/27	Italiano 4	10:45am – 12:30pm	11	Eleonora	\$145
4/11 – 6/27	Italiano 5	10:45am – 12:30pm	11	Simonetta.	\$145
4/11 – 6/27	Advanced Conversation & Grammar (Requires Italiano 5)	10:45am – 12:30pm	11	Rossella C	\$145

Classes meet once a week at the ICC. **NO CLASS** on Saturday May 23 and Monday May 25 – Memorial Day Weekend. **REGISTRATION** starts March 10 at the ICC or by mail, with completed registration form and payment.

Enrollment is confirmed with full payment of tuition (cash or check only). **Current ICC membership (\$25 individual, \$35 family) is required to enroll in all courses.** Early registration **DISCOUNT:** Register by April 6 and get \$20 off (except for Italian through Songs and Storia d'Italia that receive \$10 discount by March 25).



# Course Registration Form

To enroll, please drop off, mail, or place this form in our mailbox with payment. Pre – registration is strongly encouraged since we attempt to limit class size to 12 students (8 for conversation classes).

- Please add me to your mailing list for information on Italian classes and cultural events
- I'd like to register for classes now as indicated below

Name: First \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

E – mail \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Specify:  New student  Returning student

**Register me for the following:**

Class \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

**Alternatives—in case the above choices are full:**

Class \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the boxes to indicate your selections and amount	check		
ICC Annual Membership >You must be a member to enroll in courses	Single	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$25
	Family	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$35
Italiano 1 through 6 (textbook below is required)		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$145
Italiano 1 through 3 at Lunch (textbook below is required)		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$120
Beginner or Intermediate Conversation		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100
Advanced Conversation		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$145
Italian for Travelers (book included)		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$150
Parent & Me (for toddlers and caregivers)		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$150
Storia d'Italia (no book required)		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100
Canta che ti passa: Italian through songs (no book required)		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$85
Early registration discount (\$20 per class above) ONLY if before 3/25 ** \$10 Discount for "Italian through songs" and "Storia d'Italia" before 3/25		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____

**TEXTBOOKS**

Ciao! 6th Edition Book and CD (required for Italian 1 – 6, Italiano 1 – 6 @ Lunch) available for order at major bookstores (Barnes & Noble, UCSD, etc.) and online (Amazon.com, Textbooks.com, Half.com, etc.)

**TOTAL (have you checked the boxes to indicate your choices?)**

Paid by:  Cash \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Check # \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Refund Policy—please review and sign below**

The ICC reserves the right to cancel or rearrange classes for any reason. If ICC cancels a class, students can transfer to a different class or receive a full refund. Approvals for transfers will be based on course and space availability. Up to and including the first class, students who send a cancellation in writing will receive a full refund. Up to and including the second class, a credit is available for a subsequent session. After the third class NO refund or credit will be given.

I acknowledge and accept the refund policy: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Student* *Date*

# ITALIAN ADULT LANGUAGE CLASSES

## SPRING 2009

### ITALIANO 1 - for beginners

**Goal:** This course gives students the basic tools needed to successfully understand and communicate in Italian. At the completion of this course, students should be able to greet others, introduce themselves, ask for information and directions, talk about themselves and others, and describe people, things, and places. **Grammar:** Pronunciation, subject pronouns, c'è (there is) and ci sono (there are), indicative present tense of essere (to be), avere (to have) and regular verbs in -are, articles, gender and plural of nouns, numbers 0-49, formal and informal communication, prepositions, interrogative. (*Textbook: Ciao! Book and CD, 6th edition, Carla Larese Riga and Chiara Maria dal Martello, Thomson Heinle, ch 1–3*)

### ITALIANO 2 - for students with basic knowledge of Italian

**Goal:** This course builds on Italiano 1 and provides students a stronger and wider skill set necessary to understand, speak, read and write in Italian. At the end of the course, students should be able to order and talk in detail about food, drinks, common activities, leisure time, plan a trip, describe daily life and talk about family and traditions. **Grammar:** Indicative present tense of regular and irregular verbs in -ere and -ire; possessive adjectives and pronouns, partitivo (some, any); sapere and conoscere (to know); days of the week, numbers 50-100. (*Textbook: Ciao! Sixth edition, Carla Larese Riga and Chiara Maria dal Martello, Thomson Heinle, ch 3 – 6*)

### ITALIANO 3 - for students with a fairly good command of Italian

**Goal:** to build on Italiano 2 and give students the structures necessary to make polite requests, express tastes and preferences, describe people and experience from past, make comparisons, express wishes. At the end of this class students should be able to communicate in a shopping environment, talk about their childhood, describe and compare people and things, make social arrangements. **Grammar:** reinforcement and practice of all tenses of the indicative mood, including imperfect and past perfect, direct and indirect object pronouns, conditional, comparative and superlatives, present progressive. (*Textbook: Ciao! Sixth edition, Carla Larese Riga and Chiara Maria dal Martello, Thomson Heinle, ch 6 – 9*)

### ITALIANO 4 - for students with a good command of Italian

**Goal:** This course helps build on Italiano 3 and give students a stronger foundation to develop their skills base in order to achieve a higher level of complexity in their speaking and reading. At the end of the class students should be able to talk in detail about Italian cuisine, ingredients, and kitchen tools, communicate about vacation, real estate, and converse about economy and employment. **Grammar:** Direct, indirect, and disjunctive pronouns, the future tense, the verb piacere, and the invariable pronouns ne and ci, double object pronouns, and the conditional mood. (*Textbook: Ciao! Book and CD 6th edition, Carla Larese Riga and Chiara Maria dal Martello, Thomson Heinle, ch 9 –12*)



Tatiana Speri's Italian 6 class

### ITALIANO 5 - for students with a strong command of Italian

**Goal:** As a transition from Italiano 4, this course gives students the advanced language skills necessary to communicate at a high level of complexity. At the end of the course students should be able to describe in detail landscapes and cities, converse about sports, communicate on health and environment, express opinions on art and theater. **Grammar:** Comparatives and superlatives, relative and indefinite pronouns, the gerund mood and the progressive form, the subjunctive mood, and the hypothetical construction. (*Textbook: Ciao! Sixth edition, Carla Larese Riga and Chiara Maria dal Martello, Thomson Heinle, ch 13 – 15*)

### ITALIANO 6 - for students with a strong command of Italian

**Goal:** to build on Italiano 5 and give students stronger and wider language skills to be able to interact at a very high level of complexity. At the end of the class students should be able to debate, judge and talk about any subject. **Grammar:** conjunctive, conditional tense, relative pronouns, and gerund (*Textbook: Ciao! Sixth edition, Carla Larese Riga and Chiara Maria dal Martello, Thomson Heinle ch 15 – 18*)

### BEGINNER INTERMEDIATE AND ADVANCED CONVERSATION

Italian culture —art, cuisine, cinema, lifestyles, music, fashion, etc—is the starting point for a number of conversations and discussions that will help students to both enrich their knowledge of Italy and build a larger vocabulary. Includes practical usage and a review of the grammar previously studied. (*Book: Italian Grammar in Practice*)

#### NOTE:

**Beginner Conversation** requires Italian 2+ (or equivalent)  
**Intermediate Conversation** requires Italian 3+ (or equivalent);  
**Advanced Conversation** requires Italian 5+ (or equivalent)

# Italian for Children classes undergoing major redesign



The ICC is already implementing some exciting changes for children classes while working on a brand new, completely redesigned program that will start this fall.

One notable change is brought by our brand new teacher Ms. Francesca Petrone who has matured extensive teaching experience with children

and adults in Italy. She has a BA in Foreign Language and Literature as well as two Masters Degrees (one in Teaching English and one in Teaching Kids with special needs).

She's been in San Diego just a few months and brings with her the fresh look at Italian culture as well as the enthusiasm to promote it with us. She is sweet and patient and is bringing with her new innovative ideas to run our Italian classes for both children and adults.

Francesca is working with Gabriella Pozzoli, who many of you already know. Gabriella, who is also part of the Children Educational Committee, joined the ICC almost a year ago. She has a BA in Foreign Language and Literature from the University of

Naples and has developed extensive teaching experience in Italy as a High School Teacher and in the US as a children and adults educator. In February, in her class the ICC kids (who are already doing a fantastic job speaking the Italian language) started a program to learn writing in Italian while having fun. They currently are working on "Il Giornalino" their very own Italian newsletter!



*Il Giornalino created by ICC children*

*photos by Dianna Ippolito*



*Gabriella's class (top) Ben's drawing (bottom)*



*Francesca's class (top) Mattia's drawing (bottom)*

# ITALIAN RECIPE

## TIRAMISU



### Recipe

- 1) In a medium bowl, whip egg yolks and sugar with an electric mixer until thick and pale. In a separate bowl, whip egg whites (with clean beaters). Fold the egg yolk mixture into the mascarpone, and in the end add the egg whites. Mix gently.
- 2) Dip the ladyfingers in the coffee, and start to place the biscuits into a pan. Pay attention not to leave space between the ladyfingers.
- 3) Spread half of the filling mixture over the first ladyfinger's layer. Place the remaining ladyfingers dipped into the coffee on top of the filling and finish with the mascarpone mixture. Add the grated or powdered dark chocolate on top. Leave in the refrigerator for 4/5 hours.

### Ingredients

**Ladyfingers:** the amount depends on how big the pan is. It's better if you choose a rectangular one. You want two layers). You can find original ladyfingers and mascarpone as well at Monnalisa in little Italy.

**Syrup:** A lot of strong brewed coffee

**Filling :** 2 pounds mascarpone cheese  
8 eggs, separated  
3/4 cup white sugar

**Topping:** 2 (1 oz) squares dark chocolate, grated or powdered dark chocolate

**Buon Appetito!**

### History of Tiramisu

A dessert similar to tiramisu was created in Siena, in the northwestern Italian province of Tuscany. The occasion was a visit by Grand Duke Cosimo de' Medici III (1642-1723), in whose honor the concoction was dubbed zuppa del duca or the "duke's soup".

He brought the recipe back with him to Florence. In the 19th century, tiramisu became extremely popular among the English intellectuals and artists who lived in Florence. The dessert made its way to England, where its popularity grew.

Today's modern recipe was said to have been created in the 1970s in a restaurant called Le Beccherie in Treviso, located northwest of Venice on Italy's northern Adriatic coast. The dessert and its name became extremely popular, and this cake and the name were copied by many restaurants first in Treviso then all around Italy.

Still today Le Beccherie makes the dessert with the classical recipe: ladyfingers soaked in bitter strong espresso coffee, mascarpone-zabaglione cream, and bitter cocoa powder.

## Non solo Little Italy

By Elena Incardona

If you really want to dive into the Italian culture not only through food, you should enter the San Diego Museum of Art ([www.sdmart.org](http://www.sdmart.org)).

For those who don't know this important and old institution, the SDMA is located in the heart of Balboa Park, imposing its massive façade to every visitor hanging out in one of San Diego's most beautiful spots.

Going back to the original topic: what is the connection between Italy and the SDMA? The answer is easy: its permanent collection of Italian paintings. On view on the upper floor a wide perspective of our beloved country, from Giotto to Giorgione. Art is one of the reasons why people go to Italy so why should we deprive ourselves here in San Diego? The Museum of Art is one of the few places in South California in which we can admire Italian Art, as a glimpse of a visit to Florence.

Recently the SDMA created a partnership with CISA3 (Center of Interdisciplinary Science for Art, Architecture and Archaeology) at UCSD ([www.cisa3.calit2.net](http://www.cisa3.calit2.net)) directed by Maurizio Seracini, a pioneer in the use of multispectral imaging and other diagnostic applied to art. In order to let the people appreciate this innovative effort to discover art, the Museum set up a gallery dedicated to Italian art and specifically aimed to explain how this project works.

Put together all this with a tour led entirely in Italian organized by the ICC, you'll feel like you took a vacation in Italy for a few hours. You'll walk through the galleries looking at Luca Signorelli (The Coronation of the Virgin, 1508), Giorgione (Portrait

of a Young Man, 1510) and Bernardino Luini (The Conversion of the Magdalen, 1515) just to give some examples.

If you thought you knew every Italian corner in San Diego, this would be a good chance to acquire an even broader perspective of Italy, looking at art almost as if you were there.

**For more information contact ICC**

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*Andrea Scott*

# From Florence to San Diego, in search of the long-lost Leonardo

*ICC gives you an exclusive insight into an Italian mystery about to be solved in San Diego*

ICC invites you to a special evening with professor Maurizio Seracini to experience the groundbreaking research that he is leading at UCSD's state-of-the-art facilities in search of Leonardo Da Vinci's lost masterpiece, the Battle of Anghiari mural, a study of the Palazzo Medici Riccardi, and in support of the preservation of Italy's invaluable cultural heritage.

You will be lead through a tour of some of their facilities to see how they use science and technology to study our cultural artifacts.

**Friday, April 17, 2009 6:00 pm**  
**UCSD CISA3, Atkinson Hall, 5th Floor**  
**9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla**

Don't miss this unique opportunity to experience Italy's art and culture through San Diego's cutting edge technology!

## Event Information:

### Direction and Parking:

<http://atkinsonhall.calit2.net/directions>

Park in LOT 502 (parking ticket \$4 directly at the parking attendant)

**RSVP by April 14: [info@icc-sd.org](mailto:info@icc-sd.org)**

### Price:

- ICC Members: free
- non ICC Members: \$10 donation

Please send check to ICC  
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Include name, contact info, number in your party, number of cars



**A bit of history ...** In May 2007 Italy's then-Minister of Cultural Heritage Francesco Rutelli convened a committee to oversee the resumption of efforts to locate a long-lost masterpiece mural by Leonardo da Vinci. The "Battle of Anghiari" disappeared nearly 500 years ago when the Hall of the 500 in the Palazzo Vecchio was remodeled by Giorgio Vasari, starting in 1563. But was "The Battle of Anghiari" destroyed? Did Vasari protect it behind his own new mural? And if the da Vinci masterpiece remained in place, what is its state of conservation today?

To answer those questions, Rutelli turned to one man to lead the scientific search: Maurizio Seracini, a

pioneer in the use of multispectral imaging and other diagnostic as well as analytical technologies applied to works of art and structures. He joined the University of California, San Diego in 2006, more than thirty years after graduating from UC San Diego with a B.A. in bioengineering in 1973. Seracini returned to Italy for graduate school and received the Laurea degree in electronic engineering from the University of Padua, where he went on to study medicine. But he left medicine when he was recruited to work on a project under Renaissance historian Carlo Pedretti, searching for the long-lost "Battle of Anghiari". When that search ended (temporarily) in 1977, Seracini set up his own company, Editech, to do art diagnostics,

and for more than three decades, he has started, stopped and resumed the search for the da Vinci mural.

Along the way, he discovered one of the most intriguing clues – an inscription on the Vasari mural that was so small that it could not be seen from the floor of the Hall of the 500. There, painted in capital letters, were the words "CERCA TROVA", roughly translated as "Seek and Ye Shall Find". But time and again, the search hit a brick wall (almost literally), and Seracini had to accept that it would not be possible to find the mural without new technologies to peer behind the Vasari mural, plaster, and a brick wall behind which Seracini believes the da Vinci mural may be located.

Fast forward to 2007, when Seracini resumed the search with Rutelli's blessing, even as Seracini was spending increasing amounts of time in San Diego, California, where he was appointed Director of the Center of Interdisciplinary Science for Art, Architecture and Archaeology (CISA3). Now, two years later, CISA3 and Seracini are working on several projects of deep significance to the restoration and knowledge of great works of Italian art and historic structures – including the “Battle of Anghiari”. After more than a year of doing multispectral imaging and laser scanning in the Palazzo Vecchio, Seracini and his team from California and Italy are getting ready to perform a completely new type of imaging test on the east wall of the Hall of the 500, and the technology has the potential (finally) to uncover the truth about the da Vinci mural. Seracini's search is funded by benefactors through CISA3 as well as longtime patron Loel Guinness (of the Guinness brewing family), Giunti Editori, and Friends of Florence.

At the same time, Seracini and CISA3 Associate Director Falko Kuester have embarked on a project to document the history and state of conservation of the Palazzo Medici Riccardi in Florence – widely considered the birthplace of the Renaissance. Under an agreement with the Province of Florence, CISA3 will scan every inch of the 14th Century building using lasers as well as multispectral cameras at various wavelengths (infrared, ultraviolet, X-ray, etc.). When all is said and done, Seracini's team hopes to reveal more about the objective scientific history of the Palazzo Medici than is possible purely through historical documents. The interior of the building has been remodeled and renovated many times over the centuries, and the eventual computer model based on CISA3's non-invasive images of the build-

ing will hopefully provide a detailed portrait of which changes were made to the structure, and when. In the process, Seracini believes that the multispectral imaging will reveal many hidden murals painted over the years and then covered up during renovations. The Palazzo Medici project is expected to last approximately three years, depending on the speed at which funding for the project can be secured.

A third project of significance for the future safeguarding of cultural heritage in Italy and around the world is CISA3's “digital clinical chart” project. The project grew out of Seracini's own background in medicine: he has long believed that great works of art should be treated like a doctor would treat a patient: after examining the ‘patient’, the ‘doctor’ should order a batch of tests to determine the ‘health’ of the art work. Only then could Seracini diagnose the problem and establish a plan for long-term conservation and monitoring of the art work's health. Asked by CBS 60 Minutes correspondent Morley Safer how he got from wanting to cure patients to wanting to cure paintings, Seracini said “it looks like a big jump, a big leap, but it's very straight-forward: I wanted to put together art and science.”

Since the mid-1980s, Seracini has advocated this new approach to museums and private collectors, but until Seracini arrived at UC San Diego, it was an uphill battle. Since then, the San Diego Museum of Art (SDMA) has signed on to become a testing ground for the digital clinical chart, and Seracini's team is currently working on a prototype methodology as applied to half a dozen Renaissance works in SDMA's permanent collection. Says SDMA executive director Derrick Cartwright: “The results will guide us in deciding how to protect and preserve these works from



*ambasciatore Castellaneta, console Faganello and Maurizio Saracini*

future damage, and to give visitors a much deeper understanding of how art is created.”

Seracini is also collaborating with CISA Associate Director Tom Levy, an archaeologist, to develop a cyber infrastructure dubbed the ‘Mediterranean Archaeology Network’. It could one day provide a combined database of archaeological sites and artifacts throughout the Mediterranean region, and Seracini has signed a memorandum of understanding with the University of Calabria to include the university – and many of Italy's archaeological sites – in the forthcoming network.

Meanwhile, this spring Seracini will resume work on the “Battle of Anghiari” project and, hopefully, bring to a close the search that has taken him his entire adult lifetime. Named in 2008 a National Geographic Fellow, Seracini has found support for the search from the venerable National Geographic Society. And if he does confirm the existence of the Leonardo da Vinci masterpiece inside the wall in the Palazzo Vecchio, it will be the beginning of a new phase of exploration – applying new imaging technologies to the discovery of other great works of art that have not been seen for decades, centuries or even millennia.

“Science can bring so much to our understanding and appreciation of art,” says Seracini, “and we are creating a new discipline where art and engineering go hand in hand.”

# A Night At The Opera

By Esther Moscana – Photo by Dianna Ippolito



It was a clear beautiful evening on Saturday January 30. A perfect night for a group of ICC members to enjoy a glass of wine and a bite to eat at Teatro Panini on 3rd avenue. Assorted vegetables, cheeses, breads and salads came out of the kitchen in an unpredictable parade and were absolutely delicious.

A short walk afterwards and we arrived at the Civic Theatre. The literati mingled with glitterati as we made our way to our

seats. The evening's performance was Tosca, by Giacomo Puccini. Sex, politics, corruption, violence and torture: Tosca is a story that could be ripped from the pages of today's newspapers as a beautiful woman risks everything to save her lover in an oppressive police state. The resulting love triangle of the passionate diva, the revolutionary artist who loves her and the corrupt police chief who lusts after her, results in murder and suicide in Puccini's stunning operatic thriller.

Every year the Civic Theater presents five operas and spares no expense on the elaborate set designs. An ornate castle, town, and lush gardens were just a few of the set pieces we got to enjoy.

For those who love the opera it was a perfect evening. The music was beautiful, the singing, the choreography and the costumes -- everything contributed to an unbelievable night.

Be prepared! Rigoletto is coming on April 3rd!

**San Diego Opera:**

[www.sdopera.com/](http://www.sdopera.com/)

**Get to know Italian Conductor Edoardo Müller:**

[www.sdopera.com/09season/interviews/muller.aspx](http://www.sdopera.com/09season/interviews/muller.aspx)

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## Festa Siciliana

The music, dance, culture and cuisine of Sicily come to the streets of San Diego's Little Italy as part of the 16th Annual FESTA SICILIANA celebration on India Street.

The highly popular FREE family event features authentic Sicilian food and entertainment, surrounded by the colorful ambiance of the Little Italy neighborhood.

Food booths will line the streets to satisfy the hungry crowds by serving up Sicilian specialties of all varieties. Festa visitors will also be able to relax at a wine and beer garden, or shop among the many booths offering Italian-themed artifacts and services.

The festival is proud to welcome the nationally-acclaimed Alessandra Belloni, who is the only woman in the United States and in Italy specializing in the Southern Italian tambourine style together with the singing and the dancing that is so much a part of the heritage of this region. "Rhythm Is The Cure" is her one woman show.

FREE parking and shuttle are available. Please park in the NORTH lot of the County Administration Building and look for the double-decker bus that will take you to the Festa.

**Sunday, May 17, 2009**  
**10 a.m. to 6 p.m.,**  
[www.sicilianfesta.com](http://www.sicilianfesta.com)



## SAN DIEGO ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL

The annual film festival returns this fall. As a warm-up to the Festival, and with our partners, the Museum of Photographic Arts & Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Los Angeles, ICC is proud to present a mini series of FREE Italian films, with English subtitles, at the Museum of Photographic Arts in Balboa Park and other venues.

The next movie in the series is:  
**Se Devo Essere Sincera**

Set in Turin, this story of a teacher (played by popular television star Luciana Littizzetto) and a detective (Neri Marcorè), brought together by a murder, follows their investigation of a crime and their exploration of a relationship. Director Davide Ferrario mixes questions of love with a comedic series of events to give the audience both laughs and thoughtfulness.

**April 16th, 7:00 p.m.**  
**MoPA theater, Balboa Park**  
**Suggested donation \$5**



[sandiegotitalianfilmfestival.com](http://sandiegotitalianfilmfestival.com)



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