Introducing the 2019 Fashion Show and Luncheon

By Raluca Dalea & Tracy Lalasz

We are very excited to introduce Roman Holiday – an Italian inspired fashion show and luncheon which will take place on May 4, 2019. After taking a year off, the ICCC is bringing back its big annual party. While we have been hosting galas for several years now, we have decided on a new format for 2019 that will allow us to come together to celebrate our ICCC community as well as Italian fashion, food, and wine in a relaxed chic environment. At the same time, this event will benefit the scholarships the ICCC awards annually to deserving students in the greater Houston community.

Since 2000, the ICCC has granted over $200,000 in scholarships to college students. Each year, scholarships are awarded to new students and most of them can be renewed, based on grades, up to 4 years per student. We are looking to your generosity to continue this tradition of supporting education for young women and men in our community.

The theme for our 2019 luncheon, Roman Holiday is inspired by the classic movie of the same name. Held on what would have been Audrey Hepburn’s 90th birthday, our event will give us a chance to come together and celebrate Italian design, as reflected in clothes, shoes and accessories. We will have a chance to learn about the newest fashion trends, how to style outfits and the incredible craftsmanship that we all associate with “Made in Italy”. At the same time, this is a chance to gather with your friends and family and enjoy one another’s company, as well as a wonderful lunch of Italian inspired foods, desserts and, of course, sparkling beverages for the adults. The event will feature a raffle and an Italian themed wine pull.

We hope you will decide to join us and bring your families and friends. The sponsorships levels available, as well as special opportunities to support the event either personally or through your business, will be published on the ICCC website. In the meantime, any inquiries can be directed to info@iccchouston.com. Individual tickets will become available closer to the event.

The event committee is working tirelessly and we can always use more volunteers to help us with current activities, as well as on the day of the event itself. If you are interested in being a volunteer, or have any general questions about the event, please reach out to us at: gala@iccchouston.com.

Thank you for the many years of continuous support of our organization. None of our events would be possible without your interest in various topics related to Italian culture and heritage.

We look forward to seeing you at the luncheon!
Fellini's Eternal Rome: A Conversation with Professor Alessandro Carrera

By Iliaria Verunelli

Alessandro Carrera is a John and Rebecca Moores Professor of Italian Studies and World Cultures and Literatures at the University of Houston. In his new work, “Fellini’s Eternal Rome: Paganism and Christianity in the Films of Federico Fellini” (Bloomsbury Academic, 2019), he explores the co-existence and conflict of paganism and Christianity in the works of Federico Fellini.

LVI: Professor Carrera, let’s start with the title of your new book.

Carrera: While I was teaching courses on Federico Fellini and Roberto Rossellini at the University of Houston, I noticed that Fellini’s original contributions to the religious themes present in Rossellini’s work were always characterized by two ideas of Christianity, one good, another bad. The good one was essentially Franciscan; the bad one, in Fellini’s perspective, is that embodied by the Church established after the Council of Trent. It is the Church of Counter-Reformation, especially in the version that Fellini experienced when he was in school in the 1930s. This is an idea of religion intrinsically punitive and repressive.

LVI: What about Paganism?

Carrera: At the same time, I started noticing something strange: together with the Christian themes, there was a non-Christian background. Fellini was looking backward at a pre-Christian world, pointing to a sort of popular paganism that never disappeared in the Italian culture.

LVI: How does Rome fit in with all of this?

Carrera: Fellini’s movies, especially the ones that have to do with the Eternal City, always present a Rome that is at the same Christian and Pagan. If we look at Fellini’s Roman movies, La Dolce Vita, Fellini-Satyricon, Roma and, to a different extent, 8½, we find a lot of references to a culture that is an alternative to Christianity and that often reveals itself in the form of contemporaneity.

La Dolce Vita starts with the image of a Christ brought to Rome with a helicopter, a representation that shows something ancient and modern at the same time. Then, Anita Ekberg arrives with an airplane. After the Christian God, a goddess appears: Anita Ekberg is a Hollywood celebrity who is really represented as a divinity.

Modernity has its own gods. In La Dolce Vita they are the media, the paparazzi, the television, which films the miracles. In the movie, when two children say they have seen the Virgin Mary, immediately the reporters show up. Everything must be filmed; everything must be staged. In the same movie, however, Fellini shows a different perspective. A priest, who is probably the only reasonable priest in all Fellini’s work, gets angry. He defends the idea that miracles arise from silence and meditation, not from confusion.

LVI: What do your students say when they see Fellini’s work?

Carrera: Fellini always hits the target; he never fails. This is his genius. He is able to speak also to people who know nothing about Italian culture, who don’t even know where Italy is. No matter how knowledgeable they are about Italian culture, something of Fellini reaches them.

LVI: Is this book for experts only?

Carrera: No, it is not. There are a lot of cultural, philosophical, psychoanalytic references and many attempts to contextualize Fellini’s work, but I wrote this book thinking that my readers are intelligent, not necessarily expert, but simply curious, and I am confident that they will read it to the end.

Professor Carrera will present his book at the ICCC on Thursday, January 31, 2019 at 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.iccchouston.com.
**new iccc members**

**Benvenuti!** The IC&C wishes to welcome the following new members and invites them to stay fully engaged with all of the wonderful programs and events that the IC&C has to offer. For more information about becoming a member and joining the IC&C family, please contact Alessandra Pistone, Business Director, at 713-524-4222 ext. 6 or at accounting@icccHouston.com.

Mrs. Renee Bergere and Mr. Diego Carli
Ms. Cecilia Besnard and Family
Mr. and Mrs. Milton Bolanos
Ticiana Boncagni
Ms. Nancy Bonomo
Mrs. Adriana Borsos
Mr. Andrea Bottini and Mrs. Anca Loghin
Mrs. Aurora Brunel and Family
Ms. Rose Caraglia
Mr. and Mrs. Doug De Filippi
Mr. David L. DeMaggio
Mrs. Maria Di Bonaventura and Mr. Roberto Ruiz
Mr. Christian Di Sanzo
Ms. Clotilde Eaker and Family
Mrs. Monique Exbrayat
Mr. Alexandre Frigini
Ms. Paulette Harbin and Family
Mr. and Mrs. Gardner Kondo-Cook
Mrs. Barbara Lohff
Mr. Rober Mango
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pugliano
Ms. Mia Scafani and Family
Mrs. Irene Sheytman

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**ALL’ICCC (At the IC&C)**

**Dear Friends,**

Buon anno! I am honored to begin the new year as the Italian Cultural and Community Center’s newly elected President of the Board of Directors. I am excited to begin serving in this capacity and working with my fellow board members, Executive Director, Ray Miller, and the staff of the IC&C to continue promoting Italian culture in Houston.

2018 brought much success and accomplishments to the IC&C. Milford House saw a steady stream of guests and members attending all of our cultural events, wine and food pairings, cooking classes, lectures, and films, many of which sold out regularly. The IC&C continued to welcome new members from Houston and the surrounding areas. New students enrolled in our language school. The 40th annual Festa Italiana held last October was a success. All of this would not be possible without the hard work, enthusiasm, and dedication of the IC&C’s staff, board members, sponsors, and volunteers. I am immensely proud of seeing the IC&C succeed and grow, and I am grateful to everyone for their support.

Last June, we were faced with sadness at the passing of our friend and fellow board member, Frank Panebianco. Although we miss Frank dearly, we are comforted and buoyed by the many happy memories we shared with him. The board is dedicated to continuing the integral work he performed on the Education Committee as we work to implement new and dynamic educational programs.

This new year brings with it new goals, ideas, and objectives. We have begun working on a strategic plan to make 2019 a year-long festa in order to continually promote the diverse Italian culture and bring even more guests and members through the doors of Milford House. We are in the planning stages of a possible collaboration with World Fest Film Festival for an exclusive Italian film screening and lecture. In May, we will welcome the new Spring season with the IC&C’s first-annual Prosecco brunch and fashion show scholarship fundraiser at the Junior League where the theme will be Roman Holiday.

The Fashion Show and Scholarship executive committee began planning last November, and even in its early phases of planning, it is promising to be an elegant event which I am certain will be a grand success.

The new year will also see the enhancement of marketing for all of the IC&C’s wonderful cultural enrichment programs, particularly our thriving language school. We are fortunate to be recognized as an Ente Gestore—an acknowledgement as a stable and efficient nonprofit organization committed to the promotion of Italian language and culture in the United States. The Ente Gestore designation is given by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in conjunction with the receipt of grant awards which enable the language school to offer its high quality language classes. We are blessed to have a great team of teachers for our language school and we plan to continue offering classes for students of all ages and levels.

Thank you to all of our wonderful staff, sponsors, and volunteers who contributed to our organization last year. I am looking forward to working hard and having fun with all of you in the new year as we continue to promote Italian culture in Houston and make the IC&C an ongoing success.

**Peter Scalzitti**

ICCC 2019 President

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**2019 IC&C Board of Directors**

**Officers**

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**Board of Directors**

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Ezio Gribaudo: A Lifetime in Art

By Victoria Surliuga and Kathryn Brough

Ezio Gribaudo is a name you might not be familiar with. But the contemporary Italian artist, a painter, sculptor, and graphic artist, whose award winning production has been recognized with various international prizes, among which the IX Rome Quadriennale (1965), the XXXIII Venice Biennale Prize for graphic arts (1966), and the São Paulo Biennale (1967), is someone you’ll soon want to know more of.

As art publisher, Gribaudo has worked with Francis Bacon, Marcel Duchamp, Peggy Guggenheim, Joan Miró, to mention a few artists and personalities with whom he crossed paths. Gribaudo’s work can be found in the permanent collections of many museums around the world, such as the MoMA in New York and the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice.

His experimentations with materials and print bring to light archeological remnants in the context of intense chromatic studies. A specific line of his work is called “logografì” (a term of Greek origins evoking fishnets and objects that are caught in a specific moment in time). They can be understood as a verbal commentary that incorporates ancient texts, maps, and artifacts within the painting’s visual space. These works are based on the engraving of white surfaces, resulting in dazzling white on white compositions that frame memories of daily objects in visual renderings reminiscent of Duchamp’s readymades. Giorgio de Chirico pointed out that Gribaudo’s work has elevated the use of white to a whole new conceptual level.

Gribaudo has also perfected the use of paper as a philosophical concept whereby incisions and collages map the archeology of human and animal experience. His use of a manual press renews the function of an old and noble instrument, now incorporated with craft and ability in the artist’s daily practice. In his art, he has introduced innovative ideas, such as the use of tools from the typographical industry and the elaboration of literary texts, for instance Ludovico Ariosto’s and Carlo Collodi’s.

The Italian Cultural & Community Center (ICCC) will host an evening of contemporary Italian art with Professor Victoria Surliuga of Texas Tech University on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. The presentation will be followed by a screening of the documentary “The White Magic of Ezio Gribaudo,” directed by Marco Agostinelli and Andrea Liuzza (2015).

Victoria Surliuga is Associate Professor of Italian at Texas Tech University. She was awarded The 1905 Fellowship from the Mount Holyoke College Alumnae Association for her research on Peggy Guggenheim and art patronage, and a CH Foundation grant to curate the exhibition “Ezio Gribaudo’s Theaters of Memory” at the Louise Hopkins Underwood Center for the Arts in Lubbock, Texas, in 2016. She has also curated the exhibition “Ezio Gribaudo: A Lifetime in Art” at the Texas Tech University Library (2018). Her publications include “Ezio Gribaudo: Enchanted Archeology” (2018), “Ezio Gribaudo’s Landscapes” (2018), “Ezio Gribaudo: My Pinoccio” (2017), and “Ezio Gribaudo: A Man in the Middle of Modernism” (2016), for which she was awarded the Texas Tech University First Place President’s Faculty Book Award for 2017-2018.

Ezio Gribaudo standing in front of his studio in Turin, Italy. Courtesy of Pau Garcia.
What is there to do when you have finished visiting the Capitoline Hill and Roman Forum? Easy! Take a walk along the Aurelian Wall.

In 271 AD, the Emperor Aurelian began the construction of a defensive wall that surrounds the city in a circuit of 19 kilometers or about 12 miles with a fortification that is about 24 feet high. If nothing else, the Aurelian Wall is an impressively massive structure that gets your attention!

Although designed to thwart attacks by barbarian armies, the wall defined a boundary for the city along which were the aqueducts, the cemeteries, and, after the construction program of the Emperor Constantine in the fourth century AD, several of the Christian basilicas of Rome.

The best place in Rome to see the aqueducts, that kept the largest city in the known world in the first century AD flush with fresh water, is the Porta Maggiore of the wall. At the Porta Maggiore, the ancient aqueducts of the Aqua Claudia and the Anio Novus are stacked one on top of the other. The water channels of the aqueducts flowed to the Esquiline Hill, the highest point in the city of Rome, before branching off to deliver water to all of the regions of the city.

A ten minute walk east of the Porta Maggiore, the Basilica of San Lorenzo Outside of the Walls houses the tomb of Rome’s patron saint, St. Laurence. A funerary basilica was authorized by the Emperor Constantine in 326 AD to give pilgrims a place to venerate their beloved martyr. The construction of the 12th century church that stands on the site today resulted from the destruction of several tombs in the cemetery where the saint was buried. Nevertheless, the beautiful cloister adjacent to the church has preserved in its walls over one thousand of the damaged burial markers, some of Rome’s earliest Christian burials.

Constantine built the first Christian basilica as the home church of the pope along the south course of the wall. The Basilica of St. John Lateran, although embellished extensively in subsequent centuries, still retains the majesty of the ancient Roman basilica building form that was adapted to serve as a place of Christian worship.

A short distance farther west is the glistening marble of the Pyramid of Gaius Cestius, a funerary monument from Republican Rome. A strangely unexpected sight!

These are only a few of the many ancient sites along Rome’s Aurelian Wall. We would love to take you personally to see these wonderful places and many more, but we realize that is not possible. However, we did the next two best things! We will present a program to the ICCC on February 27, 2019, highlighting the sites along the Aurelian Wall, AND we wrote a book of self-guided walks to these sites along the Aurelian Wall that you can take with you when you go to Rome.

Buon viaggio!

Along the Aurelian Wall: Highlighting the A-B-C’s of Ancient Rome
By Louis F. Aulbach and Linda C. Gorski
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**January 8 - Ezio Gribaudo: A Lifetime in Art**
Join us for a special presentation about the contemporary Italian painter, sculptor, and graphic artist, Ezio Gribaudo. Presentation by Professor Victoria Surliuga of Texas Tech University, followed by a screening of the documentary "The White Magic of Ezio Gribaudo".

- Time: 7:00 pm | Price: $10 for Members and $15 for Non-Members | Place: ICCC Houston

**January 13 - Italian Mass and Pasta Lunch**
Join us every second Sunday of the month at 10:30 am for a Roman Catholic Mass which is said in both Italian and English. If you decide to stay after Mass, a delicious home-cooked pasta lunch is served for only $5 a plate (children 10 and under are free). Experience Mass, or just come for lunch, in a personal setting with family and friends.

- Time: Mass starts at 10:30 am, Lunch starts at 11:30 am ($5 pasta lunch) | Place: ICCC Houston

**January 13 - Festa della Befana**
Come celebrate the Italian tradition of Befana with us! Children from our language classes will perform a short recital and all children will receive sweets from Befana when she comes to visit.

- Time: 3:30 - 5:30 pm | Place: ICCC Houston

**January 16 - 2019 Contemporary Italian Film Series**
Join us in 2019 for our Contemporary Italian Film Series, recent releases from Italy screened in Italian with English subtitles, all premiering in Texas. January will feature the film "Fortunata (Lucky)".

- Time: 7:00 pm | Tickets: $10 ICCC Members and $15 for Non-Members | Place: ICCC Houston

**January 24 - Il Giano della Memoria**
On Thursday, January 24, the ICCC will present a short lecture and a screening of the film 'Primo Levi's Journey' (2007, 93 minutes) as we remember the victims of the Holocaust. Each year on January 27, the United Nations remembers the many people of Jewish origin affected by the Holocaust and this day is officially called the 'International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.'

- Time: 7:00 pm | Place: ICCC Houston

**January 31 - Fellini's Eternal Rome**
Join us for a special presentation on "Fellini's Eternal Rome: Paganism and Christianity in the Films of Federico Fellini", a recently released book authored by Professor Alessandra Carrera from the University of Houston.

- Time: 7:00 pm | Price: $10 for Members and $15 for Non-Members | Place: ICCC Houston
**FEBRUARY 2019**

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**February 8 - Come Wine With Us: Valentine’s Date Night**
Join us for an evening of vino e amore! Celebrate St. Valentine’s Day early with a guided wine tasting featuring wines from multiple regions of Italy. More details to be announced!

- **Time:** 7:00 pm | **Price:** TBD | **Place:** ICCC Houston

**February 10 - Italian Mass and Pasta Lunch**
Join us every second Sunday of the month at 10:30 am for a Roman Catholic Mass which is said in both Italian and English. If you decide to stay after Mass, a delicious home-cooked pasta lunch is served for only $5 a plate (children 10 and under are free). Experience Mass, or just come for lunch, in a personal setting with family and friends.

- **Time:** Mass starts at 10:30 am, Lunch starts at 11:30 am ($5 pasta lunch) | **Place:** ICCC Houston

**February 20 - 2019 Contemporary Italian Film Series**
Join us for our Contemporary Italian Film Series, recent releases from Italy screened in Italian with English subtitles, all premiering in Texas. February will feature the film "Dove non ho mai abitato (Where I’ve Never Lived)".

- **Time:** 7:00 pm | **Tickets:** $10 ICCC Members and $15 for Non-Members | **Place:** ICCC Houston

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**February 21 - Il Sapore Italiano (Cooking Class) - Ravioli**

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Introducing the new members of the 2019 Board of Directors

On November 8, 2018, at the Italian Cultural and Community Center (ICCC) Annual Meeting, the following individuals were elected to fill the 5 vacant positions on the ICCC Board of Directors. Get to know a bit about them through their bios below:

Diane T. Aquila is an Italian American, and mother of eleven. Her family relocated to Houston in 2007, when her husband, Dominic A. Aquila, was appointed Dean of Arts and Sciences at the University of St. Thomas (UST). Soon after their arrival in Houston, they joined the ICCC. Dominic served on the ICCC board for three years and was part of the team that brought Festa Italiana to the campus of the University of St. Thomas. Diane was part of the nominating committee one year and was instrumental in facilitating the Italian summer camp for children at UST. Diane’s Italian culture and heritage are an integral part of family life. She has been an active member of Donne di Domani for nearly four years. Her activities with the Donne include participation in its scholarship committee and various social functions. She is passionate about Italian cooking and culture, which she has passed on to my children.

John Marion Carrabba has served on the ICCC Board in the past and completed his first three-year term. He is a native Houstonian and comes from an Italian-American family who holds its heritage very close to their hearts. His wife, Janice Vento Carrabba and their daughter Jessica are also native Houstonians. They have owned Piatto Ristorante for over 17 years at the Post Oak location. John Marion is a graduate from St. Thomas High School and the University of St. Thomas. In the past he has served on the West Houston Chamber of Commerce Board, the University of St. Thomas President Advisory Board and on the Alumni Board. For the past 8 years, he has served on the Houston Italian Festival Executive Committee Board and in the past as co-chair or chair. During each of these years he has had over $80,000 contributed by Frost Bank, Nestle Waters (parent company of Acqua Panna and San Pelligrino) and Pepsi Cola in dollars and or products, and feels he can contribute much more to the Board of Directors such with his business skills.

Monica Ercolani has been a member and enthusiastic supporter of the ICCC for over 20 years, consistently attending and participating in many events as well as at the Festa Italiana. Having a lifelong passion for all things Italian she rarely misses an opportunity to attend and to invite others to participate at ICCC events. Monica was born and raised in Tuscany, Italy, and recently became a U.S. citizen after living in USA for the past 20 years. She is a graduate of the University of Florence in History of Italian Language and continued her education in the U.S. earning a Master of Italian Studies at UCLA prior to moving to Houston. She raised her two children here as bilingual in Italian and English and retains deep ties to her native Italy while fully embracing the Italian-American experience. As a professor of Italian Studies at the University of Houston for the past 13 years, and through her long-term participation in ICCC programs and events, Monica has established a great network of friends who support and appreciate this center as much as she does. She is looking forward to the opportunity to help lead this organization that she appreciates so much.

Sandra Celli Harris is a native of Galveston Island and has lived in Houston since 1965. She has three adult children and four grandchildren. Her parents were born in the USA and both maternal and paternal grandparents were born in Lucca, Italy. She retired as a Professor of Italian in the Italian Studies Program at the University of Houston after 25 years in January 2011. Having been a member of the Federation of Italian American Organizations since it purchased the Milford House and participating actively in the Italian Cultural and Community Center since 1988, she feels that she is qualified to be a Board Member. Sandra was a member of the Board of Directors of the ICCC from 1992-1996 and from 2012-2017. Having been a part of the beginning, growth, and development of the ICCC she thoroughly supports the mission of the ICCC and would like to continue to contribute to its future. She has currently been serving as Cultural Committee co-chair and as a member of the Education Committee. Sandra is involved in the presentation of lectures, discussions, film presentations and other cultural activities including organizing annually the Cultural Movie Theatre at Festa Italiana.

Margret Norton was born in Vienna, Austria, and grew up in Europe, graduating from high school in Livorno, Italy. She received her B.A. in German at the University of Texas and M.Ed. in Guidance and Counseling at the University of Houston, obtaining Mid-Management Certification at the University of St. Thomas. She is the proud mother of a son and grandmother of two grandsons who currently live in Hannover, Germany. She has 40 years of experience in education, beginning as a teacher of German and many years later, retiring as a high school principal in Houston. She also worked at Rice University as Principal of the Rice University Summer School for Grades 8-12 for several years. Margret’s volunteer experience includes several years of being a member of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo which is committed to raising funds for area high school scholarships. Presently, however, she focuses her volunteer efforts at the ICCC and serves on the Education Committee of which she has been a member for three years, helping her fellow committee members develop educational courses of interest for our community. She also served on the ICCC Scholarship Committee this year. In addition, she represented the ICCC as a goodwill ambassador at outside events that the ICCC participates in during the year.
Casunziei all'Ampezzana (Beetroot Ravioli with Poppy Seeds)

Recipe by Vanessa of the Hungry Chook (http://www.thehungrychook.com/blog/2016/casunziei-allampezza)

Ingredients (Serves 4 - 6)

For the filling:
- 600 g small beetroot - a little smaller than golf balls (about 20), scrubbed
- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 250 g ricotta
- 60 g Parmesan, freshly grated - plus extra for serving
- sea salt, freshly ground black pepper, freshly grated nutmeg

For the dough:
- 400 g "00" flour - plus extra for dusting
- 2 small, organic eggs
- 120 ml whole milk
- Semolina (or extra "00") for dusting

To serve:
- 80 g unsalted butter
- 1 tablespoon whole blue poppy seeds

Directions

1. First, roast the beetroot. Place them in a large baking tray, drizzle with olive oil and season with sea salt. Cover tightly with foil and bake in an oven at 180°C until tender when pierced with the tip of a knife (about 45 minutes).
2. Meanwhile, make the pasta dough. Place the flour and a pinch of sea salt in a mound on a clean surface and make a well in the centre. Pour the milk and crack the eggs in the well, and bring together with a fork until everything is completely incorporated. If the dough feels too sticky add a little more flour: if it is too dry add a splash more milk. Knead for about 8-10 minutes, until the dough is homogeneous and feels silky, smooth and elastic. It should spring back when pressed with your finger. Wrap the dough in plastic and set aside to rest for at least 30 minutes (and up to two hours), at room temperature.
3. Once the beetroot is cool enough to handle, slip off the skins and puree in a blender or food processor until smooth. Transfer to a large bowl, stir through ricotta and Parmesan, and season generously with sea salt, black pepper and nutmeg. Cover and allow to rest in the fridge while you roll the pasta.
4. Dust two large baking sheets with semolina and set aside.
5. Once the dough has rested, cut into six pieces and leave all but one wrapped in plastic. Pass the dough through the widest setting of a pasta machine 5-6 times, folding and rotating 90 degrees each time. Adjust the machine to the next setting and pass the pasta through each setting once only, until it is slightly transparent (the second-last setting works well for most machines). Lay the sheet on the floured surface and continue until all the dough is rolled (you may need to cut them in half depending on the length of your surface).
6. Mark circles with the ravioli cutter along one of the pasta sheets. Brush the edges of each circle with a little water. Pipe about two teaspoons of the filling onto the centre of each circle. Gently lay another sheet over the top. Carefully press down around the mounds of filling with your fingers, expelling any pockets of air and creating a seal between the two sheets. Cut out the ravioli with the cutter and place them onto the baking sheet. Continue with the remaining sheets. Allow the ravioli to rest for about 30 minutes.
7. In a medium frying pan, melt butter over medium-high heat until nutty and brown, add poppy seeds, season with sea salt and remove from the heat. Meanwhile, simmer the ravioli in plenty of salted boiling water for about 2-3 minutes, before removing them with a slotted spoon.
8. Serve the ravioli, drizzled with the brown butter, and topped with freshly grated Parmesan.

Pair it with: Franciacorta

Taken from https://www.decanter.com/wine-reviews-tastings/sparkling-wine/franciacorta-sparkling-wines-to-drink-350984/

Like Crémants in France, Franciacorta exists slightly below the radar in the sparkling wine world. But it is gaining plaudits among critics and is often described as Italy's answer to Champagne.

Franciacorta was granted DOCG status in 1995, covering just over 2,000 hectares of vines in the district of Brescia in Lombardy, located in central northern Italy. Grape varieties that can be used to make the Italian sparkling wine are two of the classic Champagne varieties of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, plus also Pinot Blanc.

Franciacorta is produced using the 'traditional method' - the same as for Champagne - with a secondary fermentation taking place in the bottle. Contrastingly, most Prosecco is made using the 'tank method', where secondary fermentation takes place in stainless steel tanks before bottling.

Franciacorta NV: A non-vintage wine which must be released no earlier than 25 months after harvest, with a minimum of 18 months on its lees.

Franciacorta Satèn: A blanc de blancs version that must have a minimum 50% Chardonnay, combined with up to 50% Pinot Blanc. The pressure is lowered to under 5 atmospheres for a gentler, crémant-like sparkle. It must be aged for at least 24 months on its lees.

Franciacorta Rosé: Must have at least 25% Pinot Noir in the base wine and spend a minimum of 24 months on its lees.

Millesimato: The product of a single vintage, which must be aged for a minimum of 30 months on its lees and cannot be released until at least 37 months after harvest.

Riserva: The pinnacle of the Franciacorta pyramid. Requires at least 60 months ageing on its lees.
Hope everyone had a great time at Festa Italiana. Unite is having a reunion/Spring Fling on April 6, 2019 from 6PM-11PM. Please help us find all past Unite members who are not on Facebook and let them know. For more information please contact Gerry Barone - 713-526-4239.

Charity Guild of St. Joseph
By Gerry Barone, president
The Charity Guild of St. Joseph had our annual Christmas luncheon at Ciro’s Restaurant on December 1st. Brenda Benigno, our Spiritual Director, gave a wonderful inspiration to all members present and then led us in Grace before the meal. Marylyn Colonnetta read several letters thanking Catherine Cash’s family for donations in honor of the Italian Cultural and Community Center. The club will have our annual St. Joseph Altar on March 3, 2019 at Holy Ghost Church. For more information on Charity Guild please contact Gerry Barone - 713-526-4239 or Minnette Carrabba - 713-864-4200.

Unite
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Italy in America Association (IIAA)
By Betty Donellan, president
December 3rd was our annual Christmas Party at the Houston Racquet Club and attended by 50 members and guests. It was a great night and thanks to Elaine Kennedy for bringing the party favors. Special thanks to Len Trombetta, sax player extraordinaire, Didi, our angel singer, and Mike, the pianist for entertaining us. Also, a special thanks to Mike Marshall for providing a very humorous rendition of a song dedicated to memory loss.

January 10th we will meet again at the ICCC for our election of the Board for the coming year. This is always a fun social event where we take care of business, then socialize with one another.

February we are fortunate to have our meeting fall on Valentine’s Day so come out and join us for a special evening.

Dues are only $50/year single and $75/couple. This includes food, drink and entertainment during the year. Contact Betty Donellan at bettyrelaw@gmail.com or call 281-374-2172 for further information. Also, membership applications are found on the ICCC website under clubs, Italy in America.

Amiketos
By Minnette Carrabba | Rosalie Brandino, president
Amiketos’ November meeting was hosted by Camella Chiara and Joann Martino in a private room at Kenny and Ziggy’s Deli on Westheimer in Houston, Texas. Election of officers was held. The following were elected to be officers in 2019: Joann Martino, president; Rosalie Montalbano Aquilina, vice president; Tee Sicola, recording secretary; Sandy LaCorte, corresponding secretary; Frances Jo Caliva, treasurer; Marylyn Colonnetta, spiritual director and Minnette Carrabba, club reporter. New officers were congratulated and plans for 2019 have begun.

The December meeting and Annual Christmas party was hosted by Cynthia Marks at Fleming’s Steak House. Both the room and guest dinner tables were decorated for the Christmas Holiday. Beautiful individual gifts for each member were at each place setting. Elaborately decorated 24” Christmas trees were the hostess gift for the winners at each individual table. After a wonderful steak dinner, along with a champagne toast for 2018 which has been a wonderful year spent together, the members enjoyed playing the “Chinese Christmas Game”.

Plans for the last Christmas party for members and guest was discussed by Chairman Bernadine Falco. Her committee consists of Joanna Montalbano and Rose Marie Schiro. An event is planned at the Houston Racquet Club on December 18.

Two members have been absent for part of the year. Bonita Doss and Bernadine Orlando who are both recuperating from surgery. Please remember them in your prayers. Also long term member Rosalie Beniretto who is currently a legacy member and recuperating from a fall.
Daughter's of Italian Heritage
By Jennie Trapolino | Jamie Russo, president

The Daughters of Italian Heritage ended the year with our Christmas Party on December 16, 2018. The new officers for the next two years were inducted. They are: Jennie Trapolino, President; Deborah Graustein, President Elect; Anna Messer, Treasurer; Pam Walters, Recording Secretary; and Flavia Scalzitti, Corresponding Secretary. We look forward to a productive two years with our new officers.

We were busy during December, as usual. Kathy Albert gracefully organized baskets to take to the elderly at San Jose and did an exemplary job. The people at San Jose, as always, were greatly appreciative of the Daughters kindness at this time of the year. Once again, we gathered toy and gift certificates and delivered them to Texas Children’s Hospital, for the children’s Christmas Party.

If you would like to be a guest at one of our monthly meetings, or would like an application to join us, we would be happy to have you. For membership information, please contact Anna Messer at anna4ever29.att.net and visit our website at www.ciaodiva.org.

The Houston Italian Festival Needs Your Help!
By The Houston Italian Festival Committee

The Houston Italian Festival is seeking new volunteers to join the Festival Executive Committee in 2019! Each year, Festa Italiana is made possible by the helpful hands of the committee members, who serve in the full calendar year and make important decisions throughout the year. The Committee meets once a month beginning in February. If you feel like taking the next step and getting involved, we need your help.

Current openings on the Festival Executive Committee include individuals who are interested in:

• Serving as “Festival Grounds Apprentice”. Qualified person(s) must be physically able to manage a crew of 2 to 4 individuals. Person(s) must also be willing and available to work the full days Monday, October 7th through Monday, October 14th. These days encompass the set-up, the festival and the tear-down. If you’re ready to volunteer your time, please ask us about this today!

• Serving as “Food - Supply and Booth Coordinator Apprentice”. Qualified person will assist with making sure correct food supply quantities are ordered and that all booth managers are secured and ready to go by October. If you have a background or interest in business management, we’d love to have you involved!

• Serving as “Volunteer Coordinator Apprentice”. Qualified person will assist with volunteer recruitment, coordination and management for the over 500 volunteers it takes to run the festival each year. Person must be computer knowledgeable with working with emails and spreadsheets. Person must also be available to work at the festival volunteer check-in booth beginning Thursday, October 10th through Sunday, October 13th. If you like working with people who are giving of their time for a cause, then call us today!

• Serving as “Sponsorship Coordinator”. Qualified person will seek new cash and in-kind sponsors. Person must be able to make phone calls and send emails as well as research and in some cases visit with potential sponsors. If you are out-going and are not afraid to ask with the possibility of begin rejected, then this job is for you!

Of course, we can always use your gifts and talents throughout the year, in any capacity you are able to assist. To become more involved with the Festival Executive Committee and more, based on your availability, send an email to info@houstonitalianfestival.com. We’d love to be in contact with you!

ITALIAN IN THE KITCHEN
language class for intermediate speakers
5 lessons in the classroom + 1 putting your knowledge to the test in the kitchen

THURSDAY, JUNE 6 - JULY 18, 2019

for more information or to register for the course, send an email to programevents@ ICCCHouston.com
ITALIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES

for kids and teens
Saturdays | 9:30 - 11:30 am
Session 4: February 2 - March 9
Session 5: March 23 - May 4

Winter Session:
Adults A1 Session 1 | 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Thursday, January 17 - February 28
Italian for Travelers | 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Wednesday, January 30 - March 6
Conversando | 12 - 1:30 pm
Thursday, February 7 - March 21
Italian Conversation | 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Thursday, February 21 - April 4

Spring Session:
Adults A1 Session 1 | 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Thursday, March 7 - April 18
Italian for Travelers | 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Wednesday, March 27 - May 1
Italian Conversation | 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Thursday, April 18 - May 30

Visit icchouston.com for more information
Email school@icchouston.com or call 713-524-4222 ext 2 to register

The ICCC thanks the following sponsors for supporting La Voce Italiana. For more information on sponsorships, please email marketing@icchouston.com.