Brain drain
By Ilaria Verunelli

“Flight of young people is the new fear,” Corriere della Sera titled last April. The article was about a poll among Italians, surveyed on their feelings on immigration and emigration. According to the results, two out of three Italian citizens see the flight of young compatriots to foreign countries as a threat bigger or at least equal to the arrival of foreigners in Italy. A recently published report by Tortuga, a think tank of young economists, highlights the characteristics of the phenomenon. The analysis portrays the identikit of the Italians who decide to leave the country: they are young (one out of five is below 26 years) and well educated. While, in 2004, Italian emigrants with an academic degree were one out of 10, in 2017, this portion increased to reach 30%.

According to the analysis, based on Istat (the Italian National Institute of Statistics) data, 2.35% of those who attained a higher education degree in 2007 were living abroad, when interviewed in 2011. This percentage increased to 4.76% for those who graduated in 2011 and interviewed in 2015, underlying a strong growth in the 4-year period. Competing the two groups, the strongest increase of emigrants is in between the group of those who have a master’s degree. Additionally, those who decided to leave graduated with better marks compared to those who stayed. Numbers are even higher for people who completed a PhD program. Data give additional details also about the disciplinary fields that were the most impacted by the trend. Italian graduates in economics or statistical areas, science and engineering who decided to live abroad more than doubled in the 4-year period.

The so-called “brain drain”, the migration of individuals with high education and specialization, is a phenomenon not limited to Italy. The study reports that, between 1990 and 2010, in the OECD countries, the number of migrants with higher education increased by almost 130%; on the contrary, in the same period, the migration of individuals with low level of specialization increased by “only” 40%. The reasons are, first of all, financial: highly skilled young people select the foreign country where their competence is remunerated the most. Indeed, the salary premium is equal to 36.2% for 2011 graduates who work abroad (but for those who emigrated to an extra-European advanced economy this premium can reach a peak of 42.9%). Additionally, between 1975 and 2008, the number of international students increased significantly, thus pushing people who studied abroad to look for a job in the foreign country with a “network effect”, that is the attraction for destinations where other compatriots are present.

Though international migration is a well-known phenomenon and cannot be considered per se negative or positive, in Italy the migratory balance is sharply worsening, especially for more qualified workers. Italy has one of the lowest percentage of immigrants with higher education. In the light of these numbers, the authors of the report suggest ways to increase the circular mobility of Italian graduates, creating incentives for collaborations abroad on Italian projects and introducing financial support for experiences done in foreign countries under condition of working for a period in Italy. On the other side, according to them, Italy should attract more foreign talents, recruiting them on international markets through a system of mutual recognition of university titles, especially for those people who come from non-EU countries.
The Houston Italian Festival's 41 for 41 Fundraising Campaign was kicked off in March with a letter to all members and friends of the ICCC. As of June 1, 2019, we have received $7,441 from 91 members and friends, totaling 181 units of $41, for an average of almost $82 per donation. Please join with the current supporters and help us reach our goal of $10,000. We thank all of our donors listed below and look forward to receiving your donation soon. List of donors current as of date of printing.

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**La Voce Italiana**

**Notizie**

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Make checks payable to: Italian Cultural & Community Center

Mail to: 40th Houston Italian Festival - 1101 Milford Street, Houston, TX 7006
new iccc members

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

Mr. Gonzalo Alvarez
Mr. Michael Bryer and Ms. Cathy Granello
Ms. Jennifer Cate
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Mr. Wendel Maunula
Ms. Jessette S. Milon and Mr. Joseph C. Riley
Mr. Mauricio Naves
Ms. Stephanie Parriott
Ms. Amelinda Rodriguez

All’ICCC (At the ICCC)

Dear friends,

Happy summer! Although this is traditionally the season of rest and relaxation, things are not slowing down here at Milford House. Our talented staff and volunteers will continue to work enthusiastically through the summer months to continue bringing our members and guests enriching cultural events that will have everyone feeling as though they have taken a vacation to Italy.

In May, the ICCC welcomed acclaimed author Dianne Hales, who came through Houston on her book tour through the southern states to promote and discuss her latest book, La Passione. Our guests braved torrential rain to come hear Dianne speak about her new book and her deep love of Italy, the Italian people, and the Italian language, which had everyone riveted and no doubt wanting to book a trip to Italy right away!

There are still three movies left in this year’s Contemporary Film Series at the ICCC. These are movies that are recently released in Italy and premiering in Texas. There is no need to know Italian to enjoy the movies as they are screened in Italian with English subtitles. These movies are a wonderful way for our members and guests to experience both the Italian language and culture through cinematography. Come beat the Houston heat this summer at the ICCC and enjoy the same movies people are watching over in Italy.

Our wine events are going strong and are one of our most well-attended cultural events throughout the year. At the beginning of June, we launched our new wine event titled Aperitivo Italiano, which focuses exclusively on the lesser-known wines of Italy, their terroirs, and body. Each session is led by Perugia native, Riccardo Guerrieri, sommelier and General Manager at Vinology Bottle Shop + Wine Bar. Tickets for the last session on July 10th are still available. And, on August 9th, Philip Cusimano will lead our popular Come Wine With Us event featuring five Sangiovese-based wines paired with food from Amalfi restaurant. Book your tickets soon and take a virtual trip to Italy this summer through its distinctive and cutting-edge wines.

Plans for this year’s 41st Festa Italiana are well underway, with board members and volunteers working diligently behind the scenes to bring the Houston community a fun-filled autumn weekend rich with Italian flair. Events at Milford House and Festa Italiana would not be possible without the participation of our wonderful volunteers who give so willingly of their time and talent throughout the year. Once again, we are looking for volunteers to begin signing up to help at this year’s Festa Italiana in all capacities, including set-up and take-down. For those of you who volunteered last year, we will be reaching out to you soon. If you would like to help out this year as booth manager, please email Gary DeSerio at: gdeserio54@gmail.com. We are excited to welcome you and have you be a part of an exciting yearly event.

Amalfi restaurant. Book your tickets soon and take a virtual trip to Italy this summer through its distinctive and cutting-edge wines.

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The Federation thanks National Terrazzo for donating Heating and Cooling.

Kristina Isabel Priotto: ICC Merit Based Scholarship

Kristina Isabel Priotto is an Italian American born in Houston, Texas. She graduated in the top 3% of her class with a 5.59 GPA on a 6.0 scale in the Class of 2019 of Clear Brook High School as summa cum laude after four amazing years filled with adventure. Kristina was a four-year flute marching band soloist and concert band principal player, National Honor Society and Student Council member, and four-year Superintendent Scholar. Her interest in linguistics has led her to choose a career path in psychology, which she will be studying along with a Plan II major at the University of Texas at Austin in the fall. Kristina would like to thank the ICCC for supporting her in pursuing her university degree and maintaining her Italian culture close to heart. She maintained a rigorous academic schedule, consisting of nearly all AP courses in her Junior and Senior year. She scored a 1340/1600 on her SAT. She has volunteered locally, traveled internationally and participated in such varied organizations as Debate, Model UN and Health Occupations Students of America. She served in a leadership capacity in Band, assisting directors with warm-up, lessons and coaching those players in her section. She was selected to give a TEDx Talk at her school’s TEDx event. She also participated in Student Council and several foreign language clubs.

Katherine Elaine Whitlock: ICCC Merit and Financial Scholarship

Katherine Elaine Whitlock has graduated from Clear Brook High School in the top 6% of her class with a 5.37 GPA on a 5.0 scale. This student completed 6 AP courses and scored a 1440/1600 on the SAT. With the generous support of the ICCC, she is elated to attend the University of Texas at Austin this fall to study Architectural Engineering. While working 20 hours a week, Katherine has also participated in various extracurricular activities including Robotics Team, Rocket Club, DECA, and “The Well” Christian Club, where she served as an officer in 2018. She played cello in her school’s orchestra, including three years as first chair and as an officer in 2018. She received the Four-Year Superintendent’s Scholar Award, and was recognized for her academic achievements through both the National Honor Society and the National Technical Honor Society. Through both organizations she engaged in hundreds of hours of volunteer work including mission trips and working with the homeless. Her great-grandparents emigrated from Sicily in the early 1900s, settling in Bryan, Texas. She was thrilled to hear the news. He plans to continue his studies at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) in the fall of 2019 with a major in chemistry. He will also continue his deep love of music by playing his trumpet in the band there as well. He also looks forward to entering the Chemistry Scholars program at UAB where he will be mentoring students in chemistry. He says; “I am excited not only to grow in my academic pursuits but also hope to continue growing as a person in my relationship with Jesus as the years go on. I look forward to continuing my education and am honored to receive financial assistance through the Italian Cultural and Community Center.”

David A. Sabillon: Wayne D. Duddlesten, Sr. and Margie DiPuma Scholarship

David A. Sabillon has graduated from Cinco Ranch High School, in the top 6% of his class, with a 3.96/4.0 GPA and score of 1370/1600 on the SAT. He has completed several AP courses and was able to overcome initial adversity when transitioning from home school into the public school system. He received numerous awards including Katy ISD Student Excellence Award in Science (faculty selected, one student from senior class), Outstanding Student US History, Leadership Award, National Honor Society and others. He also is an accomplished musician, winning many competitions and placements as a trumpet player, and serving as the Drill Instructor/Student Leadership Team for the marching band. He has also volunteered locally and through mission trips, while working part-time. He is very thankful to be a recipient of the Wayne B. Duddlesten, Sr. and Margie DiPuma Scholarship. His 98-year-old Italian great-grandmother, Alma Lombardo, was thrilled to hear the news. He plans to continue his studies at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) in the fall of 2019 with a major in chemistry. He will also continue his deep love of music by playing his trumpet in the band there as well. He also looks forward to entering the Chemistry Scholars program at UAB where he will be mentoring students in chemistry. He says; “I am excited not only to grow in my academic pursuits but also hope to continue growing as a person in my relationship with Jesus as the years go on. I look forward to continuing my education and am honored to receive financial assistance through the Italian Cultural and Community Center.”

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Session 1:
September 7 - October 12, 2019

Session 2:
October 19 - November 23, 2019

Summer Session:
Advanced Italian Conversation
6:30 - 8:30 pm
Thursday, July 11 - August 22

Fall Session:
Italian for Travelers | 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Wednesday, August 7 - September 11

Adults A1 Session 1 | 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Thursday, September 5 - October 17

Italian Business Class
6:30 - 8:30
Wednesday, September 18 - October 23

Advanced Italian Conversation
6:30 - 8:30 pm
Thursday, October 3 - November 14

ITALIAN BUSINESS CLASS

Are you looking to learn Italian for business purposes? Then this class is for you! Whether you need to speak to a client in his/her mother tongue or you simply would like to learn basic business words, this 6-week class will give you all the help you need to be more effective in your communication skills.

To register email School@houstonitaliancenter.com or call 713.524.4222 ext. 2

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### July 2019

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**July 10 - Aperitivo Italiano: Wine Body Guide, Light, Medium and Full**

“What is the meaning of ‘Aperitivo Italiano’? An aperitivo (or apéritif) is often described as being similar to the American happy hour, but in reality, it’s much more than that. An Aperitivo is joyous and mood-lifting, it relaxes you after a day of work or prepares you for the night to come. Aperitivo, with its cheerful yet elegant nature, is a staple in Italy and has been getting more and more appreciated around the world.

At the ICCC we have created the Aperitivo Italiano nights: a series of 3 wine classes in June and July, in a relaxed and joyful environment, for you to discover unordinary wines. During the third edition of Aperitivo Italiano: Wine Body Guide, Light, Medium and Full, you will learn how to discuss the body of a wine by analyzing how it feels in your mouth.

- Time: 7:00 p.m. | Price: $25 for Members and $30 for Non-Members | Place: ICCC Houston

**July 14 - 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

**July 17 - 2019 Contemporary Italian Film Series**

Join us for the screening of Storie Sospese. Plot: A group of rock climbers who were unemployed after the closure of yet another construction site due to the death of a colleague, who fell down during a climb, find themselves forced to look for another job. Among them is Elia, played by Marco Giallini, with economic difficulties and a family to support: a situation that will lead him to accept a job in a small town in Abruzzo where the old “colleague of the rock” Ermanno (Antonio Gerardi) runs a small business. Here he will meet the combative teacher Giovanna (Maya Sansa) and the young geologist Alessandro (Alessandro Tiberi). “Unclear” working dynamics will force Thomas to make a choice ...

- Time: 7:00 pm | Price: $10 for Members and $15 for Non-Members | Place: ICCC Houston
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**August 7 - Cooking Class - Italian Brunch**  
Who said that brunch on a Wednesday wasn't a thing? On August 7, come learn how to prepare an Italian brunch at the ICCC. This cooking class will be taught by Flavia Scalzitti of Flavia's Flavors.  
- **Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
- **Price:** $65 for Members and $70 for Non-Members  
- **Place:** ICCC Houston

**August 9 - Come Wine with Us: Amazing Sangiovese**  
This guided wine tasting will highlight 5 Sangiovese based wines paired with bites from Amalfi Ristorante Italiano & Bar. Sangiovese, a dark-berried vine, is the most widely planted grape variety in Italy. Virtually synonymous with the red wines of Tuscany, and all the romanticism that goes with the territory, Sangiovese is the core constituent in some of the great names in Italian wine. The tasting will be led by Philip Cusimano.  
- **Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
- **Price:** $60 for Members and $65 for Non-Members  
- **Place:** ICCC Houston

**August 11 - 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

**August 11 - Pizza + Movie Night**  
Join us for the screening of "Come un gatto in tangenziale (Like a cat on a highway)" directed by Riccardo Milani. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Pizza, water and soft drinks will be served.  
- **Plot:** Giovanni and Monica are the most diverse people on the face of the earth. They would never have met if their children did not get together. The two have a common goal: the story between their children must end!  
- **Time:** 5:30 p.m.  
- **Price:** $15 for Members and $20 for Non-Members  
- **Place:** ICCC Houston

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**COME WINE WITH US**  
**Amazing Sangiovese**  
Friday, August 9, 2019

$60 ICCC Members | $65 Non-Members
Il Volto Santo di Lucca: Legend from Jerusalem to Lucca
By Sandra Celli Harris

Italy is a country full of mysterious and miraculous legends. This is certainly true of the Legend of the Volto Santo of Lucca and his magical voyage from Jerusalem to Lucca. The legend begins with Nicodemus. Who was Nicodemus? What we know about Nicodemus is through the Gospel where Nicodemus appears as a highly regarded Pharisee—a magistrate of the Jews and a member of the Sanhedrin. Nicodemus, after seeing the miracles performed by Jesus realized that these miracles could only have originated from God, so Nicodemus did everything in his power to get a chance to meet him. St. John writes in his gospel (Chapter III, Verses 1-21), “Having come to Jesus Nicodemus said unto him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you have been sent by God to be our Master; because nobody, unless they have God with them could operate the miracles that you have shown us.”

When Nicodemus saw Jesus on the cross, he neither fled nor did he hide like all the other Disciples had done. He along with John and Joseph of Arimathea deposed Jesus from the cross and cared for his body by wrapping it in a shroud and giving Him an honorable burial. The story of Nicodemus in John’s Gospel ends here, but a legend blossomed around his name. Here is where the magical tale of The Volto Santo of Lucca / The Holy Face of Lucca begins. According to the legend Nicodemus was caught in the persecution that broke out in Jerusalem against the followers of Jesus and he was excommunicated by the Sanhedrin and beaten and deprived of all of his possessions. Nicodemus fell into extreme poverty and was charitably staying in a little house owned by a highly regarded Doctor of the period. It is here that he sculpted the Volto Santo and it is here where he later died. Nicodemus was inspired to carve Jesus’ dying body on the cross on a big chunk of Cedar of Lebanon Wood. After carving the body he fell asleep before carving the Face. When Nicodemus woke up the next day, he was shocked to discover that the face of Jesus had been miraculously carved on the wood. It was believed to have been carved by an angel. The wooden crucifix was then hidden in Jerusalem for some 700 years before it was uncovered by Bishop Gualfredo of Piemonte (Piedmont). According to Deacon Leobino in his writings, the Venerable Bishop Gualfredo went on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem where he remained for a very long time. He visited a home and found Nicodemus’ Holy Face hidden there. He then decided he wanted to bring it back to Rome. Bishop Gualfredo found a great ship sent by the heavens and it was here in the city of Joppa where they placed the precious cargo. The ship was to carry the effigy of Christ represented in his suffering to Rome. So, some 700 years later the Byzantine Volto Santo carved by Nicodemus was loaded on an unmanned ship and set to sea. Guided by Divine Providence it eventually landed on the Tuscan-Ligurian border at the port of Luni and a cart steered only by oxen brought the Crucifix to Lucca first to the Basilica of San Frediano and then to its permanent home in the Cathedral of San Martino. The Volto Santo has a dedicated celebration: the Festa di Santa Croce (The Holy Cross) each year on September 13th and 14th. This is the most important festival of the year in Lucca and during this period The Volto Santo is dressed in gold vestments including a gold crown, collar, belt and shoes. It is also the one time of the year when the gates to his chapel in St. Martin’s Cathedral are opened allowing the people to pass through and venerate the crucifix.

You may wonder what happened to Nicodemus. Nicodemus was exhumed by the Pisan Knights of the First Crusade and after they received permission to take some of the bodies of Saints home to the Cathedral of Pisa, St. Nicodemus found a place of eternal rest and worship in Lucca’s neighboring city Pisa. It was some three hundred years after his Volto Santo had arrived in Lucca in 742.

Many miracles have been associated with the Volto Santo and, during the Middle Ages, pilgrims traveling the Via Francigena between Canterbury and Rome stopped in Lucca to see the Volto Santo. Lucca was a pilgrimage destination as well as an important staging post on one of the main routes of the Via Francigena. In the Middle Ages the Via Francigena was the major pilgrimage route to Rome from the north. The route passes through England, France, Switzerland and Italy. Depending on the time of the year and the popularity of the shrines or saints, travelers used three or four different crossings of the Alps and The Appenines. There was never an official road map that the Pilgrims followed as they made their way south toward Rome.
Baked Vegetables with Bread Crumbs - Verdure Gratinate

Now this is home cooking in Italy. Verdure gratinate (baked vegetables with bread crumbs) can be found on many tables here in our area, always delicious - warm and toasty or packed up for a pot-luck. The thick slices of onions are my favorite and are basically the best onion rings ever! They come out soft and warm inside with perfectly light and crispy crunch. To top it off this healthy dish is incredibly simple to make and can be served as an antipasto or at the end of the meal with your meat as a

Ingredients (for 4 people)
(Below are suggested veggies, you can use any kind of vegetables you like, cut in half, lengthwise so they have a large flat surface)

- 1 tomato
- 1 small zucchini
- 1 eggplant
- 1 onion (thickly sliced)
- 1 pepper
- small handful of fresh herbs of your choice
  (we use: oregano, parsley or marjoram), chopped
- salt & pepper
- olive oil
- about a cup of plain bread crumbs

Directions
1. Season plain breadcrumbs with fresh herbs.
2. Place veggies on cookie sheet, (covered in parchment paper) drizzle with olive oil, add salt & pepper.
3. Sprinkle breadcrumbs evenly over vegetables, covering them completely (but don't go crazy with a half an inch of breadcrumbs).
4. Finish with another drizzle of olive oil.
5. Bake 375 F / 190C degrees oven for 45 minutes - 1 hour, until vegetables are soft and breadcrumbs are browned on top.

Pair it with: Malvasia Wine

https://www.wine-searcher.com/grape-264-malvasia

Malvasia is an ancient family of grapes that includes a diverse collection of noble varieties. These grapes are capable of producing wine of any feasible color in dry, sparkling and sweet styles. There are dozens of regional synonyms for and sub-varieties of Malvasia, painting the picture of a well-traveled family that has adapted to numerous environments. In the 21st Century, Malvasia is produced in Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Croatia, Slovenia and the United States.

Malvasia is grown all over Italy under many names and styles. Often paired with Trebbiano, Malvasia blends make up a significant proportion of inexpensive table wines made on the mainland. The Friuli-Venezia-Giulia DOCs of Collio and Isonzo are regarded as the best varietal examples of dry Malvasia, showing light stonefruit flavors and a pronounced floral bouquet.

Further south, the fashion is to create slightly sparkling versions of Malvasia in Emilia-Romagna, often with a pinkish hue. In southern Italy, semi-dried Malvasia grapes are vinified into Passito wines to take advantage of the family's naturally high sugar and potential alcohol levels.
Charity Guild of St. Joseph
By Gerry Barone | Fran Danna, president
The Charity Guild of St. Joseph held new officer elections on May 14th and a luncheon at Nash D’Amico’s in the Village. We would like to congratulate our newly elected officers: Fran Danna, President, Marylyn Colonetta, Vice President, Cappie Tavary, 2nd Vice President, Gina Benestante, Recording/Corresponding Secretary, Minnette Carrabba, Treasurer, Benda Benigno, Spiritual Director, and JoAnn Verdina, Auditor. Gerry Barone, the Charity Guild of St. Joseph past-President, presented Laura Schornawith of St. Vincent De Paul a donation from the proceeds of our 2019 St. Joseph Altar. Gerry presented to Father Bill Bueche a donation to Holy Ghost Catholic Church, also. If interested in joining the Guild please contact Fran Danna (713) 204-0890.

Unite
By Gerry Barone, president
Unite is now gearing up for the 41st Festa Italiana, so get ready. Unite will once again be managing the Sausage Booth. Come out and see us and sign up to work. If you would like more information, contact Gerry Barone (713) 526-4239.

Italy in America Association (IIAA)
By Betty Donellan, president
We were rained out of our last meeting of the year in May but had Happy Hour on June 20th attended by the faithful and friends. We are quiet in July in Houston but hold our Ferragosto dinner in August which will be held subsequent to this article. Over the July 19th to the 21st weekend, several of our members are traveling to Baton Rouge to enjoy the Festa Italiana there including a dinner concert with Louis Prima’s daughter and her band. Contact Betty Donellan for more information if you are interested in attending the weekends events.

Amiketos
By Minnette Carrabba | Rosalie Brandino, president
The Spring Social was celebrated by taking a trip to Galveston’s Galvez hotel. Members enjoyed an elaborate buffet, touring the hotel and visiting the “ghost rooms”

Cynthia Marks hosted the annual Mothers Day Banquet at Maggiano’s. A delicious Italian dinner was served. The individual tables were decorated with fresh rose arrangements surrounded by flickering rose lights, which created a beautiful ambience in the room. Three candles were lit to honor all members, member’s deceased children and deceased members. Three Masses were said at Saint Theresa’s Catholic Church for all members, deceased nonne and mamme in our life.

The June meeting was hosted by Jeannie Hoppens and Caroline Matranga at Escalante Restaurant at Meyerland. Cynthia Marks and Ginger Musachia were thanked for planning the Mothers Day Banquet and the Spring Social.

Congratulations to the family of Minnette Carrabba whose grandson Lucian Rombado graduated from the US Naval Academy. The family of Sandra LA Corte, her grandson Cole Aaronson, graduated from Episcopal High School and headed to University of Texas and her granddaughter Brittany Aaronson graduated from the University of Texas.

Please keep the following in your prayers: Bonita Doss and Bernadine Orlando as they are both recuperating from surgery as well as Jo Ann Martin as she is recovering from a fall and her husband, Nuncio, for continued healing from his hospital stay.

Daughters of Italian Heritage
By Deborah Graustein | Jeannie Trapolino, president
May 18, the annual Mothers Day celebration was held. A big thank you to Mary Reynolds for organizing the event. Our Mother’s Day luncheon gives us another reason to show honor and appreciation for the nonne and mamme in our life.

On June 12 Michelle Belco and Flavia Scalzitti co-chaired our “Celebrating Italy” dinner. The food and focus was on the region of Liguria, a coastal region of north-western Italy. Thanks to all the team members who made all the fantastic food, and for the presentation. It made for a memorable evening.

In June we welcomed five new members: Jennifer Bonacci, Trina Sarao, Susan Currie, Carolyn Lidiak and Rita Fusco. We are so glad for your friendship, fellowship, and assistance in the charitable endeavors we support.

This July and August we will be in the process of forming teams for Festa Italiana to make meatballs and stuff artichokes. You are invited to join the fun. Stayed tuned for exact dates and time.

For membership information, please contact Anna Messer at: anna4ever29@att.net or visit our website at www.ciaodiva.org.
Planning for the 41st Annual Houston Italian Festival started early in January 2019. Thanks to the arduous work of the Festival executive committee all aspects and details will be done and in place for the first customer to enter the grounds on October 10, 2019. The hairman for the 41st Houston Italian Festival is a long-time volunteer, Gary W. DeSerio. Chairman DeSerio stated, “Our hard-working committee is dedicated to presenting an exciting and enjoyable time for everyone that joins us October 10-13, 2019 and we look forward to seeing all of you this year.”

Sponsorships are coming in strong with almost all of last year’s sponsors returning this year and we have added several new ones. All of the food booths have been sponsored and exciting entertainment has been booked. The names of all of our generous sponsors will be published in the next edition of La Voce Italiana. There are some $500 sponsorships and major sponsorships still available. If you are interested in sponsoring, please email or call Alessandra Pistone, Business Director, at account-
La Voce Italiana Team
Managing Editors
Megane Primault
Assistant Editors
Ray Miller, Erika Myers, Claudia Sims, Marissa Rombado
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Have any comments or suggestions for us?
Send them to marketing@iccchouston.com

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

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