Save the date for the ICCC's Fashion Show and Luncheon

Benefiting the ICCC Scholarship Program
Since 2000, the Italian Cultural & Community Center of Houston, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, has granted over $230,000 in scholarships to college students. Each year, new scholarships are awarded via the several scholarship opportunities the ICCC offers to new students and continue to renew all awards based on grades, up to 4 years per student.

On March 12th, 2020, we are hosting a new special event with the goal of expanding our scholarship program offerings to create more opportunities for students to attend higher education and experience college to the fullest. The Fashion Show and Luncheon will also raise funds towards the creation of a new scholarship program for students currently enrolled at a college or university in the greater Houston area that are participating in a study abroad program in Italy. With your support of the 2020 Fashion Show & Luncheon, you are helping us inspire young and bright students to achieve their dreams.

Featuring the theme “Roman Holiday,” the 2020 Fashion Show & Luncheon will include a prosecco lunch, Italian designers on the runway, raffles for various gift baskets, and more. We are expecting over 250 attendees, including members of the ICCC, Houston’s fashionistas, and admirers of Italian fashion and culture.

Many of you have been asking what you can do. Here are some things we’d love you to participate in:

1) You can get a seat or a table to participate and see the wonderful fashion show that Elizabeth Anthony and Festari are putting together. This will truly be a day to celebrate all things Italian in food, fashion and of course, wine. See our sponsorship opportunities here.

2) You can also contribute by collecting a fabulous donation from one of your favorite stores or restaurants. Next time you are out holiday shopping, drop off one of our donation forms. We would also love donations of amazing Italian wines for part of our Italian wine cellar. All donation forms must be submitted by February 12, 2020.

3) Do you know anyone that would like to support the ICCC Roman Holiday Luncheon, but can’t attend? Underwriting opportunities are available, and we would be most grateful!

Thank you for your support of the 2020 Fashion Show & Luncheon.

Happy Holidays!
The Connection Between Gabriele D'Annunzio And The U.S.

By Dr. Nicola Perone

On Nov 10, the presentation of the book “D'Annunzio e l’America”, authored by Dr. Nicola Perone, took place in Pescara, Italy, the city where Gabriele D'Annunzio was born. The presentation by G.B. Guerri, president of the Vittoriale Foundation, was quite successful, with the city mayor and the councillor of culture in attendance.

Gabriele D’Annunzio (1863-1938) was a novelist, poet, journalist, playwright and a soldier during World War I. His complex or, as he used to say, “inimitable” life, made him one of the most interesting and representative figures of his time.

The book deals with the considerable interest that D’Annunzio had for this country, and with the fame he was able to gain here, despite the fact that he never set foot in America and only knew a few words of English. His interest in America was prompted by family reasons, his brother and his son had settled here, as well as by personal reasons, which included his desire to sell his books outside Italy (Il fuoco was published in its English version as early as 1896, as The Triumph of death), his political-military involvement during World War I, and the tournées of the Italian actress Eleonora Duse, with whom he was romantically involved.

His interest in America was kept alive, throughout his whole life, also by the considerable curiosity he had for the technological innovations that this country produced incessantly during the early part of the 1900s, including the airplane, the automobile and the cinema.

The main objective of this book, according to the author, is to add a new piece to the vast mosaic of the poet’s life, helpful to better understand how wide his horizon was. In fact, the interest that D’Annunzio had for America and the fame he achieved here, despite the limited means of communication at the time, are two aspects of his life that other biographers have virtually ignored.
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 ICC has to offer. For more information about becoming a member and joining the ICC family, please contact Alessandra Pistone, Business Director, at 713-524-4222 ext. 6 or at accounting@icchouston.com.

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Cacciatore
Ms. Susan Leone
Mr. Rom Lumia
Mrs. Lynn Luster
Mrs. Hannah Mitchell
Mr. and Mrs. David Nuzzo
Mrs. Laura Pennesi and Mr. Andrea Liverani
Mr. and Mrs. Eric Pickett
Mr. and Mrs. Adam Ritchey
Ms. Aurora Russell
Ms. Sandra Sena
Ms. Elena Slater
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Villa

February Issue

All’ICCC (At the ICCC)

Dear Friends,

Normally, this is the space where the President addresses our community. I have asked our newly elected 2020 President, Monica Ercolani, and she has kindly agreed to let me write the letter for this issue.

It was almost eight years ago that I was lucky enough to meet with several current and prior Board Members of the ICC. At the time, they were looking for someone who could help them grow the ICC according to the Strategic Plan. Since then, it has been my honor to serve all the members, staff, Board and the many guests that have come through the doors of Milford House. I have learned a lot from many great Board Members, but I have especially appreciated my work with past Presidents Michelle Belco, Jerry Baiamonte, Claudia Sims, Joanna Palasota Porche, Livia Bornigia and Peter Scalzitti. Both the ICC and I have benefited from a fantastic and hard-working staff that is steadfast and loyal to our mission statement. The entire organization has also benefitted from the responsible and unfaltering work and direction of all the Board Committees and the volunteers who have tirelessly helped us execute our mission.

Soon after you read this article, the finishing touches will be put in place for the 2020 Fashion Show Luncheon at The Junior League of Houston on Thursday March 12, 2020. This event will benefit our thriving scholarship program and you should not miss it. At the same time, we will be kicking off work on the 42nd Annual Houston Italian Festival which will be held October 8-11, 2020 on the lovely University of St. Thomas campus.

Effective January 1, 2020 I will be stepping down as Executive Director. I am thrilled and proud to announce that Erika Myers, a long-time employee of the ICCC will become the second Executive Director in the long history of the ICCC. Let’s all wish Erika success as she continues to grow in her overseeing of this great cultural center. I look forward to my new role at the ICCC, as I will continue to work part-time as Executive Director Emeritus, reporting directly to Erika and working on such projects as Festa Italiana, grant writing and reporting, corporate administrative work such as taxes, corporate governance and helping with events at the Center.

In this new decade of the 21st century, I am confident that we will continue to achieve and expand our goals under the leadership of Erika and the help from the ICCC team, the Board of Directors and all the great volunteers that make this organization a wonderful community. We are excited to bring you the best programming and events, timely lectures, contemporary films, cooking classes for adults and children, fantastic and educational wine/food pairings, cultural education classes, a top-notch Italian Language School for both adults and children, and much, much, more.

We look forward to seeing you in person soon and Happy New Year!

Raymond Miller
Executive Director Emeritus

2020 ICCC Board of Directors

Officers
Monica Ercolani President
John M. Carrabba 1st Vice President
Sandra Celli Harris 2nd Vice President
Raluca Dalea Treasurer
Bernard Marino Secretary
Margret Norton Assistant Secretary
Livia Bornigia Past President

Board of Directors
Carlo Cotrone
Thann Rae Dauterive
Gary DeSerio
Sheila Echols-Smesny
Tracy Lalasz
Mary Milloy
Mark Parenti

La Voce Italiana
Published six times a year (January, March, May, July, September and November) by the Italian Cultural & Community Center (ICCC) of Houston.

1101 Milford Street, Houston, Texas 77006

La Voce Italiana is a benefit to ICCC members and followers. La Voce Italiana can be found at www.icchouston.com/news/la-voce/

For more information, please call 713-524-4222 ext.4 or email marketing@icchouston.com
GUCCI - $10,000

- Lead sponsor underwriter for the Fashion Show portion of the event.
  - Naming rights for the fashion show
  - Premiere table for 12 guests, closest to the stage and runway and ability to provide one (1) runway model for the show
  - Name and/or logo included in all related materials (program, website, digital media, emails, ICCC news magazine La Voce Italiana, etc.)
  - Naming rights for ICCC Merit-based scholarship for 2020
  - Signage at the event
  - Link to your company website on ICCC web page

ARMANI - $5,000

- Table for 10 guests at the event
- Name and/or logo included in all designated marketing materials (program, website, digital media, emails, ICCC news magazine La Voce Italiana, etc.)
- Link to your company website on ICCC web page
- Credit towards 4 hours of private Italian lessons at the ICCC ($200 value)

VALENTINO - $7,500

- VIP table for 10 guests at the event and ability to provide one (1) runway model for the show
- Name and/or logo included in all designated marketing materials (program, digital media, emails, La Voce Italiana, etc.)
- Brand promoted on ICCC social media (up to 3 sponsored posts) or 1 year of advertisement in La Voce Italiana
- Link to your company website on ICCC web page
- 10 tickets for ICCC Films or Lectures in 2020 ($100 value)

FENDI - $2,500

- Table for 10 guests at the event
- Name and/or logo included in all designated marketing materials (program, website, digital media, emails, La Voce Italiana, etc.)
- Tickets for 2 at 3 wine tastings at the ICCC for 2020 ($360 value)

STYLISH SUPPORTER - $1,000

- Preferred seating for 1 individual at the event
- Name included on program and website page

FRIENDS of ICCC - $500

- Preferred seating for 1 individual at the event
- Name included on program and website page

To be included in the invitation, please register by Monday, January 6, 2020.
iccchouston.com/fashion-show-luncheon

Italian Cultural & Community Center, 1101 Milford Street, Houston, Texas 77006
Office: 713-524-4222 Fax: 713-524-6121
Please consult with your donor advised fund if that is your preferred method of payment.
ROMAN HOLIDAY SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

_____ YES, I will be a contributor to the 2020 Roman Holiday Fashion Show and Luncheon (please check one): Please scroll down to see benefits for each level

_____ $10,000 GUCCI
_____ $7,500 VALENTINO
_____ $5,000 ARMANI
_____ $2,500 FENDI

INDIVIDUAL SPONSOR TICKET
_____ $1,000 STYLISH SUPPORTER ______ $500 FRIENDS of ICCC

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS
_____ $250 per Guest ______ Number of Tickets

_____ Donation Only. I am unable to attend but please accept my donation. I do not wish to accept any of the benefits offered at my giving level.

(Please sign below to affirm you will take no benefits.)
Signature (required for tax deduction purposes)

I would like to make my donation in honor/memory of Name

Address of Honoree

________________________________________________________
*Name or company name as it should be printed

________________________________________________________
Contact name

________________________________________________________
Address

________________________________________________________
City, State ZIP

________________________________________________________
Telephone    Fax

________________________________________________________
Email

Payment Options (please check one):

_____ Enclosed is my check made payable to

Italian Cultural & Community Center $__________

Federal Tax ID: 76-0040419

_____ Please charge $ _______ to my:

_____ AMEX     _____ MasterCard   _____ Visa    _____ Discover

_____ My company’s matching gift form for $ _______ is attached

Please consult with your donor advised fund if that is your preferred method of payment.

Name on card (Please print)

________________________________________________________
Card number

Exp. date       CVC#

Signature

To be listed in the invitation, please return the completed reply form by Monday, January 6, 2020.

Register:

By fax: 713-524-6121

By mail: Italian Cultural & Community Center

ATTN: Fashion Show & Luncheon

1101 Milford Street

Houston, Texas 77006

Phone: 713-524-4222 (ext.7) - Erika Myers

Contact: ProgramEvents@iccchouston.com

ICCC will detach and shred this portion immediately after payment is processed.

Please email logos (ai, eps or png) for use in materials to: marketing@iccchouston.com

Sponsorship Policy: Sponsorship commitment must be received no later than January 6, 2020 in order to guarantee inclusion in promotional materials. This form executed by a principal/representative with at least 50% payment of selected sponsor level is necessary to ensure sponsor commitment. This serves as an agreement between sponsor and the Italian Cultural & Community Center of Houston. No refunds in the event of inclement weather or cancellation of the event due to circumstances beyond the control of the organizers of the event. The Italian Cultural & Community Center of Houston is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501 (c )(3) nonprofit organization. All charitable contributions are tax deductible as provided by law.
**January - 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.

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

**January 12 - La Befana**
Come celebrate the Italian tradition of Befana with us! Children from our Italian language classes will be participating in a recital and will receive sweets from Befana when she comes to visit. Come learn about this Italian holiday tradition with your family!

- **Time:** 3:30 p.m. | **Free Event** | **Place:** ICCC Houston

**January 22 - 2020 Contemporary Italian Film Series**
Join us in 2020 for our Contemporary Italian Film Series, recent releases from Italy screened in Italian with English subtitles, all premiering in Texas. Tickets on sale online and at the door.

The movie for January will be 10 Giorni Senza Mamma (When Mom is Away)
Plot: Carlo and Giulia are married with three children. Carlo, completely absorbed by work is an absent father while Giulia, who has decided to leave her work to devote all her time to the family, is tired and stressed out by home life and decides to treat herself to a ten-day holiday. Carlo will therefore be forced to take on the role of a full-time ‘househusband’. Arguments, disasters and near tragedies give Carlo and his children a chance to finally get to know each other better.

- **Time:** 7:00 p.m. | **Price:** $10 for Members and $15 for Non-Members  | **Place:** ICCC Houston

**January 29 - Aperitivo Italiano: The Wines of Lazio**
“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.

After the success of our three editions in the summer of 2019, we decided to host our Aperitivo Italiano series throughout the year of 2020. The first edition of the year will be on the Wines of the Lazio region. The wine tasting will be led by Riccardo Guerrieri.

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

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The Wines of Lazio: Hills of gold

Wednesday, January 29, 2020
### February 2020

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<td>Life and Works of Giuseppe Verdi 6:30-8:30 pm</td>
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<td>Carnevale! 11:30 am to 1:00 pm</td>
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**February 4 - Life and Works of Giuseppe Verdi**  
This survey of the life and works of a cornerstone of Italian culture, opera composer Giuseppe Verdi will be led by Buck Ross at the ICCC on February 4th, 18th and 25th, 2020. The course includes a ticket to Houston Grand Opera's production of Aida on February 11th!  

- **Time:** Tuesdays, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
- **Price:** $162 for Members and $180 for Non-Members  
- **Place:** ICCC Houston

**February 5 - Giordano Bruno: the Birth of Science**  
Join us as UH Professor Luca Oliva will dissect the life and work of Giordano Bruno, an Italian philosopher, astronomer, mathematician, and occultist whose theories anticipated modern science.  

- **Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
- **Price:** $10 for Members and $15 for Non-Members  
- **Place:** ICCC Houston

**February 9 - 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 a.m., Lunch starts at 11:30 a.m. ($5 pasta lunch)  
- **Place:** ICCC Houston

**February 11 - Meet the Producers: Marotti Campi**  
In our “Meet the Producers” series, the ICCC welcomes producers of Italian wines to the historic Milford House to share about their vineyards, the regions, grape varieties, processes of making wine and everything in between. The goal of these events if for all guests to have a conversation with the wine producer while tasting the unique and exclusive wines they create. “Meet the Producers” is a one-of-a-kind opportunity to learn about life as an Italian producer directly from the source. Join us for a special wine sampling with Lorenzo owner of Marotti Campi, a family-owned winery.  

- **Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
- **Price:** $30 for Members and $35 for Non-Members  
- **Place:** ICCC Houston

**February 19 - 2020 Contemporary Italian Film Series**  
Join us in 2020 for our Contemporary Italian Film Series, recent releases from Italy screened in Italian with English subtitles, all premiering in Texas. Movie: Croce E Delizia (An Almost Ordinary Summer) Plot: Two very different families spend their holidays in the same house at the seaside: the aristocratic Castelvecchios, open-minded, eccentric, but quite selfish, and the working-class Petagnas, very tight-knit, and united around solid conservative values. What brought such distant worlds together? Only Tony and Carlo, the two middle-aged heads of the families, know! The unexpected announcement of their engagement will disrupt an apparently ordinary summer and turn the lives of everyone around them upside down.  

- **Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
- **Price:** $10 for Members and $15 for Non-Members  
- **Place:** ICCC Houston

**February 29 - Carnevale!**  
Join us at the ICCC to celebrate Carnevale with snacks, games, and costumes! Children of all ages are welcome to attend in their favorite costume and join in the celebrations.  

- **Time:** 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
- **Price:** Free Event; Donations are welcome  
- **Place:** ICCC Houston
Introducing the new members of the 2020 Board of Directors

On November 14, 2019, 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:

**Carlo M. Cotrone** was born in Wisconsin and moved to Houston in 2012 to accept a position as a corporate intellectual property attorney in the energy sector. Besides his day job at Baker Hughes, he teaches as an adjunct professor at University of Houston Law Center; writes and speaks on topics such as legal and business strategy, leadership, and professional development; and performs as a freelance pianist and organist in churches throughout Greater Houston. As a person, he is the happiest when he collaborates with others to impact the world for the better, when he is involved in creative endeavors, and when he builds meaningful personal connections. Though only a member since June, he has felt drawn to the ICCC community since the first event he attended. The warmth and engagement of the people, the creativity and diversity of the programs, and the high standards of excellence that undergird the organization have been inspiring to him.

**Thann Rae Dauterive** is a native of New Orleans, LA and a Houston resident since 2015. She spent 40 years in marketing and sales in the high-tech business sector. Her love of all things Italian began while working for Società Generale Semiconduttori. As a newcomer to the ICCC, she revels in Italian history, culture, fashion and culinary appreciation through her visits to the country. She has also been a volunteer coach/mentor at the Girls Middle School in Mountain View, CA in the Entrepreneurial Education program coaching 14-year girls the skills of starting their own business. She enjoys turning her positive energy and critical thinking business skills into projects that can help people and organizations develop and expand while keeping pace with the challenges and changes faced in making day to day progress.

**Tracy Lalasz** has no Italian heritage by blood but is passionate about Italy - the people, landscape, culture, language, craftsmanship, and of course - food and wine. In 2011, she and her husband were married in Piedmont, after jumping through many administrative, religious and logistical hoops. One of the main reasons they decided to undertake the project of planning a wedding in Italy was to share their experience of traveling there with their families and dearest friends. They thought, “if we get married there - they will all have to come with us!” In the process, they made some great friends in Italy and today they are working on projects with the regional tourist office, several wineries, properties and craftspeople there to promote Italy, and help sustain the Italian way of life. Their home is Houston, and the ICCC is a fantastic link, locally, to one of the richest cultures and collection of traditions in the world. The ICCC’s language education for children and adults and the varied portfolio of cultural events enrich our vibrant city and are a unique way for those interested in all things Italian to connect. Her primary leadership strength is strategy but combined with her MBA and 20+ years of operations management, she has developed the ability to quickly develop ideas, break them down into actionable steps and execute.

**Mary Milloy** is not of Italian descent, but had the very good fortune to study in Rome and so began her love affair with that magical country. She moved to Houston to go to law school, and has lived here since. As a trial lawyer, she has been an assistant district attorney for Harris County, and an assistant United States Attorney, as well as a partner in a civil litigation law firm. She recently retired after 25 years as United States Magistrate Judge. She has been active in the legal community as a speaker and seminar leader. She has also been involved in other civic affairs with several local non-profit organizations. Her interest in Italy and Italian culture has been nurtured through her multiple trips over the years, and her family associations. Not only has she been part of a group of 6 people who own property in the Tuscan hill town of Cortona, her sister and her husband from Lecco have lived there 30 years. With each visit, she is more and more enchanted with the people, the art, the history, the tradition, and, of course, the food. With the help of the ICCC, she is becoming more at ease with the Italian language, which she has studied for years. For the past two years, she has been studying with a private tutor at the ICCC. She has also been an enthusiastic participant in cultural enrichment classes, some of the wine dinners, and monthly Masses. She is very much interested in seeing the Center thrive and continue its current emphasis on Italian cultural studies and events.

**Sheila Echols-Smesny** has been a member since 2016 and an active supporter of the ICCC for over a decade. Professionally, she is a map maker and a team leader at an energy company in Downtown Houston. She has a Bachelor of Science in Geology and an Executive MBA. She is a United States Air Force and combat veteran. She has an extreme attention and appreciation for detail. She excels at organizing and planning enjoys improving systems and processes behind the scenes. Personally, she loves to sew, attend wine tastings, and travel. She and her husband, and their two dogs, live near the ICCC. Red Shoes. Red Wine. is her travel, lifestyle, and hobby blog, and she uses that platform to share her travels, experiences, and costume making, as well as promote the ICCC. Her mother was adopted, and they always suspected they were Italian. They’ve only recently discovered Sicilian ancestry through DNA testing, and while her blood is of many cultures, her heart is Italian. Chianti is her blood type, and she’s never been happier than she was while walking through the streets of Rome.
Panna cotta all’arancia e pistacchio di Bronte


Ingredients (Makes 6 individual servings)

For the Panna Cotta
- 500 grams (half a liter, 1 pint, or 16 oz) of heavy cream
- 100 grams (1/2 cup) sugar
- 1 vanilla bean
- Zest of one orange
- 10 grams of gelatin sheets

For the Orange Sauce
- Juice of one orange
- 100 grams (1/2 cup) sugar
- 1 Tablespoon water

For Decoration
- A sprinkling of ground pistachios, ideally Sicilian Bronte pistachios

Directions

Submerge the gelatin sheets in a pan of cold water, and let sit. Split the vanilla bean lengthwise, and add it, along with the cream and sugar, to a small pan. Zest your orange and add the zest to the cream mixture. Gently bring it to a boil over medium-low heat, stirring occasionally. When it boils, remove from heat. Remove the gelatin sheets from water one by one, wring the excess water off of them, and add each sheet to the cream. Stir until the gelatin dissolves completely into the cream mixture.

Carefully pour the cooked cream into your molds, and then refrigerate for at least two hours, or longer.

While the cooked cream is cooling in the refrigerator, prepare the orange sauce. Place the sugar into a small saucepan, and then add water. Without stirring, place over low heat. While the sugar heats and dissolves into the water, juice your two oranges, ensuring that pulp and seeds are filtered out. Once the sugar has completely dissolved, add the orange juice. The addition of the orange juice will cause the sugar to crystallize. Turn the heat to its lowest setting and stir until the sugar again dissolves. Remove from heat, and let cool to room temperature.

When the panna cotta is ready, carefully turn it out of its mold onto a small serving plate. This is the hardest part, as sometimes it doesn’t cooperate. Some advise to run the bottom of the mold quickly under hot water, or to apply a hot, damp cloth to help it come out. Ours came out of the silicon molds with little trouble, but if you run into difficulty turning out the panna cotta, you may wish to just serve it in its container.

A properly cooked panna cotta will jiggle a bit on its plate. Drizzle the orange sauce over the top of each panna cotta, and finish with a dusting of pistachio. If you wish, garnish with a thin orange slice.

Pair it with: Asti Spumante

https://www.charmingitaly.com/article/asti-spumante-italian-wine

A Denomination of Controlled and Guaranteed Origin (DOCG). Made from the Moscato Bianco grape, Asti Spumante is sweet and low in alcohol. In fact, it is the perfect wine of the sweet occasions and to toast after a meal. It accompanies desserts and is very suitable with fruit, as it has hints of acacia flowers, wisteria, peach and apricot.

Asti Spumante’s organoleptic characteristics are a persistent froth, a colour from pale yellow to pale gold, the perlage is fine and persistent; it’s fragrance is soft and characteristic and, finally, its taste is aromatic, distinctive, sweet and balanced in structure. That’s why Asti is a wine with a strong and aristocratic personality. The wine has given its name to a glass (cup Asti) and it should be served at a temperature of 6-8 °C. Unlike Champagne, Asti is not made sparkling through the use of secondary fermentation in the bottle but rather through a single tank fermentation utilizing the classic method. It retains its sweetness through a complex filtration process. Another wine (called Moscato d’Asti) is made in the same region from the same grape, but is only slightly sparkling and tends to have even lower alcohol.

Asti Spumante (traditional or classic method) is a sparkling white Italian wine that is produced in the southeastern Piedmont, concentrated around the cities of Asti and Alessandria, but also near Cuneo.

Since 1993 it has been classified as
The 100 Christmas toiletry baskets assembled in November, were humanity and stewardship. They include contributions to our community. DoIH has a set of values that have contributed to our community. DoIH has a set of values that have come to define us as individuals and as an organization, they include humanity and stewardship.

We are truly blessed to have such devoted members who care and contribute to our community. DoIH has a set of values that have come to define us as individuals and as an organization, they include humanity and stewardship. The 100 Christmas toiletry baskets assembled in November, were distributed during the San Jose Clinic Christmas party. The toys and gift certificates gathered at our Christmas dinner were delivered to the Santa Maria Hostel.

This program was fascinating and truly educational and it introduced us to the work taking place at the Children’s Hospital in Rome. On December 8th, we again hosted our annual Christmas Party at the Houston Racquet Club. With close to 50 members in attendance, this event is always one of the year’s highlights. A special thank you to Len and Mike for entertaining us in style.

We meet again on January 9, 2020 to elect new Board Members. We welcome everyone to come out at 7 pm to enjoy food, wine, and friendship.

If you’d like information regarding our club, please contact Betty Donellan at bettyrelaw@gmail.com. You can also call 310-702-2090.

Amiketos
By Minnette Carrabba | Joann Martino, president

The Amiketos November meeting was held in a lovely private room at Tony’s Restaurant in Greenway Plaza and was hosted by Camella Chiara Turano and Donna Vallone. A wonderful lunch was served and the hostesses provided the dessert of Raspberry Ice with Tri-Color Biscotti cookies. The club members were happy to get together and discuss plans for the upcoming Holidays.

The December Christmas party was hosted by Cynthia Marks at the Grotto Restaurant on Westheimer. She has worked with Mary Donna Moceri, sales manager of the restaurant, and they came up with a perfect Christmas menu including choices of grilled steak, scarparelli fish and chicken with artichokes. The dessert was either cassata cake or mezzanotte chocolate cake.

Bernadine Falco, Chairman of the Couples Christmas Party, held a wonderful steak dinner at Flemings Steak House.

Please keep the following in your prayers: Bonita Doss and Bernadine Orlando are both recuperating from surgery. Dorothy Piazza who is undergoing chemotherapy. Joe Colonnetta is recovering well from his cornea graft.

Charity Guild of St. Joseph
By Gina Benestante | Fran Danna, president

A very big thank you to all the Charity Guild members and helpful volunteers that assisted in making our November annual Christmas Cuccidati fundraiser so successful. No worries if you missed out on ordering these wonderful cookies, they along with many other delicious treats will be available for purchase at the 2020 St. Joseph Altar.

We are very excited that Reverend William Bueche, C.Ss.R. Pastor has graciously welcomed us back and is hosting our Altar again at Holy Ghost Church. We look forward to seeing you on March 1, 2020 at Holy Ghost Community Center, 6921 Chetwood Dr. Houston, TX 77081. Traditional altar lunch will follow the 10 am mass.

We are always seeking new members to keep our club growing and going. The Charity Guild of St. Joseph is a multi-generational women’s club devoted to continuing to carry out the selfless acts of our Patron, Saint Joseph, through cookie sales and proceeds from our annual Spring Saint Joseph’s Altar. We look forward to you joining us to continue this wonderful tradition of charity and giving to our communities in need. As our long-time members grow older, we are in desperate need of new members to continue our tradition of service.

You don’t need to be Italian to join you only need to share an interest in our culture, traditions and values of serving others in need of our assistance. If you are interested in contributing to the St. Joseph Altar or joining our organization, please, contact Fran Danna, fdanna@johnsonsupply.com or inquire through our Facebook group, Charity Guild of St. Joseph.

Daughters of Italian Heritage
By Deborah Graustein | Jeannie Trapolino, president

2019 ended with the Daughters of Italian Heritage Annual Christmas Party, on December 8, 2019 at the ICCC. The beach-themed Christmas Dinner was in honor of our beloved Virginia DeForke. Virginia was one of the founding members of DoH. She was profoundly dedicated to the ICCC, Festa Italiana, and preserving her Italian culture and heritage. Guests included Joe DeForke, Margie & Vincent Dipuma (founding member of DoH and Virginia sister) also, many DoH members and friends felt privileged to be in attendance honoring our great friend Virginia, she is missed.

Thank you to the Christmas Committee (Co-Chairs Jill Edwards and Lisa Rivera, Cynthia Edwards, Shawn Marino, Gloria Montalbano, and Mary Ann Samaniego), for organizing this event, catered by Demeris, and entertainment provided by Chris Boise (singer/guitarist). We are truly blessed to have such devoted members who care and contribute to our community. DoH has a set of values that have come to define us as individuals and as an organization, they include humanity and stewardship.

The 100 Christmas toiletry baskets assembled in November, were distributed during the San Jose Clinic Christmas party. The toys and gift certificates gathered at our Christmas dinner were delivered to the Santa Maria Hostel.

The daughters look forward to a wonderful 2020 and wish all a Healthy and Happy New Year!
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 2020! 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 Apprentices”. 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 5th through Monday, October 12th. These days encompass the set-up, 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 8th through Sunday, October 11th. 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 being 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 based, on your availability, send an email to info@houstonitalianfestival.com. We'd love to be in contact with you!

Scholarship Deadline is Right Around the Corner

By Ray Miller

The ICCC awards annual $1,000 renewable scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are of Italian descent, to any degree on either side of parentage and who submit complete applications by the specified deadline. The deadline this year is 5pm April 10, 2020. Since 2000, the ICCC has granted over $230,000 in scholarships.

This year the ICCC has the following scholarships available: ICCC Merit Only Scholarship (for ICCC Members Only) and ICCC Merit/Financial Based Scholarship. We are pleased to announce that the major donor for the above mentioned ICCC Scholarships was the Italian Debutante Ball Committee that consisted of Virginia DeForke, Connie Nagel, Margie DiPuma and Danielle Newcomer. We want to thank the Italian Debutante Ball Committee for their generosity and support.

Recipients are chosen by the Scholarship Committee based on scholarship, leadership, and financial need. The recipient may apply for a renewal of the scholarship every spring (renewal applications are due by July 1 each year) for a period totaling four years. Renewals are only awarded for consecutive fall/spring semester during the four-year period of eligibility. To qualify for a scholarship renewal, the student must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and a minimum semester total of 12 hours. If applicable, students should complete separate applications for each scholarship for which they are eligible.

Early in the school year, information was mailed to over 155 high schools in the greater Houston Metropolitan area and are made available to ICCC Members as well as the general public by downloading them from ICCC website (www.iccchouston.com/scholarships/apply/). For all scholarship instructions and applications please refer to the website above.

ITALIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES

For kids and teens | 2020 - Saturdays
9:30 - 11:30 am

Session 4: February 15 - March 28, 2020

Session 5: April 4 - May 16, 2020

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

For Adults

Advanced Class - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Wednesday, January 15 - February 26, 2020

A1S1 - 4:15 to 6:15 p.m.
Wednesday, January 29 - March 11, 2020

Advanced Conversation - 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Thursday, February 6 - March 19, 2020

Travelers Class - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Wednesday, February 12 - March 18, 2020
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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