



THE CENTER FOR ITALIAN STUDIES

A Letter From The Director:

February 2018

Dear Friends,

The Center for Italian Studies at Stony Brook University had an extraordinary and exciting program of activities this past Fall. The secret of its success can be attributed to the variety of activities that we offer our community—an amazing community having different cultural interests including, we are pleased to report, a great interest in Italy.

We are fully aware that culturally Italy is not a homogeneous country; from the Alps to Sicily, it is a colorful tapestry of cultural diversity. Although over 90% of the population is Italian-born, each region of Italy has different cultural and ethnic roots. Together with the distinct presence of Italian Jews, there is the historical melting pot of Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Greeks, Etruscans, Celts, Greeks, Albanians and Arabs that contribute to the rich regional mosaic; and, more currently, the increased migration flows throughout all of Europe must be included in understanding and defining Italy's cultural development.

In organizing our activities we keep in mind this rich cultural diversity, but we also try to match our activities to the interest and curiosity of our local populations which include Italian Americans of third and fourth generation, Italians recently arrived and, equally important, the significant number of Italophiles who enthusiastically appreciate Italy, its people, its ideals, its civilization and its culture. As a result, we attract a different audience for the different kinds of events we plan for each of these groups.

We started the semester with our annual offerings of the Concorso D'Eleganza, Italian Vehicle Show followed by our Film Festival. Our program of Italian classes, both for adults and children, continues to address the language interests of those in our local communities and to attract enrollments. Presentation of a book on Joe Di Maggio attracted the Baseball aficionados; and the screening of "Don't Talk About It," a documentary on the Italian bicycle superstar Gino Bartali who helped to save over 800 Jews from the Holocaust, brought an audience interested in an historic event that cannot be cancelled from our memory.

While we are strongly committed to building a stronger cultural bridge with the community through a variety of activities, we are equally committed to supporting the intellectual and scholarly needs of a research university community. The success of our conference on *Migration as Global Phenomenon* with all its actors (refugees, displaced people, dreamers for better future) placed in geographic and historic context demonstrated our dedication to this commitment. In the same way both the Science Research Forum collaboratively offered with the participation of Italian Scientists associated with the University and Brookhaven National Laboratory and the Latin and Linguistic Workshop made evident how we attend to this commitment.

Looking forward...in addition to presentations that adhere to the Center's philosophy and mission, you will note special calendar events, such as the visits of the Italian Consul General of New York and the former American Ambassador to Italy. In addition we announce the topic of the special Summer 2018 Issue of *Forum Italicum*: *The Blood of Naples: Literature and Visual Arts in Naples After World War II from Eduardo De Filippo and Carlo Bernari to Roberto Saviano's "Gomorra."*

In concluding these remarks, I wish to thank you for coming to our events and being part of our mission and encouraging our dedication to the intellectual life of Stony Brook University and to the cultural enrichment of our communities. I want also to extend my sincere and fervent thanks to our donors. Since our single means of funding the Center are your contributions, we appreciate any donation you are able to send in response to our fundraising efforts. The Center is part of Stony Brook University and, as such, enjoys 501(c)(3) status, and, thus your gift is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Donations may be sent to **Center for Italian Studies, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, New York 11794-3358.**

Felicissimo e Prospero Anno Nuovo, Mario B. Mignone

Center for Italian Studies at Stony Brook
Preliminary Winter/Spring Calendar of Events, 2018
All are invited. Free and Open to the Public

February

Announcement: Center for Italian Studies Annual Essay Contest for Secondary School Students.

Theme: Book Report on a Publication (fiction or non-fiction) by an Italian American author.

Call 631-632-7444 for guidelines and additional details for participating in this contest.

28, Wednesday, 4 p.m.

Richard Nasti Lecture Series Event: Presentation by Historian, Professor/Writer, Christine Contrada (Stony Brook University). Theme: *Florence: Connecting Its Present to Its Past Through Popular History: Finding the Balance Between Its Renaissance Roots and Contemporary Reality*. Dr. Contrada will also share her experience of having spent the last year in Italy as a writer of articles for the English language news magazine, The Florentine.

Location: Center for Italian Studies, Stony Brook University's Frank Melville Memorial Library, Room E4340.

March

1, Thursday, 4:30 p.m.

Dr. Joseph Tromba Lecture Series Event: Joseph Francese (University Outstanding Faculty and Professor of Italian, Michigan State University) Lecture on the topic: *Giufà, The Sicilian sciocco/furbo Folk Hero*. Professor Francese will discuss this Sicilian folk character, who has been a part of popular culture in Sicily since the Muslim conquest in 827 and the conflicting ways Writers, Italo Calvino and Leonardo Sciascia, have appropriated him.

Location: Center for Italian Studies, Stony Brook University's Frank Melville Memorial Library, Room E4340.

7, Wednesday, 4:00 p.m.

Richard Nasti Lecture Series Event: Presentation by Nicolino Applauso (Loyola, Maryland). Topic: *The Five Star Movement (M5S) and Populism*. The discussion will include an evaluation of the Movement's effect on the results of the March 3, 2018, Italian General Election. Location: Center for Italian Studies, Stony Brook University's Frank Melville Memorial Library, Room E4340.

20, Tuesday, Noon

You are invited to our annual celebration of the Tradition of St. Joseph's Table.

Program: Noontime Mass in St. James RC Church, 25 A, Setauket. After Mass, in St. James Parish Center: Remarks on the Tradition of St. Joseph's Table followed by Table Refreshments.

Please, RSVP: 631-632-7444 if you will be participating in this cultural celebration. This occasion is being offered with the cooperation and assistance of the Setauket St. James Parish Rosary Altar Society.

22, Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Alfonse D'Amato Chair Conference: Topic: *Stories From an Existence Lived In-Between: Swerves and Paradoxes of Memory, History, Language of Professionals Who Immigrated as Teenagers*. Location: Center for Italian Studies, Stony Brook University's Frank Melville Memorial Library, Room E4340. Details to be announced.

23, Friday, 4:30 p.m.

Workshop/Panel Discussion: Theme: *Status of Italian Language Programs on Long Island. Analysis and Discussion of a Survey of Italian Language Programs on Long Island and Actions to be Taken to Enrich Curriculum and Strengthen Programs*. This event is organized with the participation of the American Association of Teachers of Italian (AATI), Long Island Chapter. Although this forum is organized for teachers of Italian, the general public is encouraged to participate and to contribute to the discussion to mold strategies. Location: Center for Italian Studies, Stony Brook University's Frank Melville Memorial Library, Room E4340.

March (continued)

27, Tuesday, 4:00 p.m.

Book Presentation: *New Italian Migrations to the United States* with editors, Laura E. Ruberto (Berkeley City College) and Joseph Sciorra, (Calandra Institute, Queens College). Location: Center for Italian Studies, Stony Brook University's Frank Melville Memorial Library, Room E4340. Offered in collaboration with the Office of the Alfonse D'Amato Chair.

28, Wednesday, 2:30 p.m.

An Opportunity to Meet and Hear John Phillips, former Ambassador of the United States to Italy, who will be visiting the Center to talk about his experience and share his reflections on his years of diplomatic service in Italy (2014-2017) and San Marino (2013-2017). Location: Center for Italian Studies, Stony Brook University's Frank Melville Memorial Library, Room E4340. All are invited. (See enclosed invitation)

29, Thursday, 5:30 p.m.

Lecture Presentation by Alessandro Carrera (University of Houston). Topic: *Fellini's Eternal City: Paganism and Christianity in Federico Fellini's Depiction of Rome*. Location: Center for Italian Studies, Frank Melville Memorial Library, Room E4340. Offered in collaboration with the Department of European Languages.

April

6, Friday, 4:30 p.m.

Presentation and Screening of the Italian Film, *Il Sole Dentro* (Language-Italian: No Subtitles). The true story of how Yaguine and Fodè, two Guineana adolescents, with a letter in hand addressed to "The Excellent Members in Charge of Europe" requesting aid for schools, food, and health care, hide in the storage area of a plane bound for Bruxelles to deliver their appeal. Simultaneously, the film narrates the story of Thabo and Rocco, victims of "football slavery" who leave Italy together to find the way back to Thabo's home village in Africa. The difficult subject of youth exploitation and trafficking is poignantly balanced with an inspiring story of youth's spirit of adventure, hopeful innocence and trusting affections. Jacqueline Jill Rito, (Teacher/adjunct professor of Italian) will introduce and moderate the discussion following the screening. A film for all ages and audiences, but with its dialogue throughout the film being in Italian, it should be an especially meaningful experience for teachers and students of Italian. Location: Center for Italian Studies, Stony Brook University's Frank Melville Memorial Library, Room E4340. Offered in collaboration with the AATI, LI Chapter. All are invited. Free and open to the public.

13, Friday, 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

AATI (American Association of Teachers of Italian) Long Island Chapter: Annual Secondary School Poetry Contest: Competitive recitation of Italian poems by students of Italian from participating local secondary schools followed by award ceremonies. Offered at the Campus Center at SUNY/College of Old Westbury.

18, Wednesday, 2:30 p.m.

Visit and Talk by the Italian Consul General of New York, Minister Francesco Genuardi. The topic of his address: *Italy and the Tri-State Area: Working Together to Strengthen Relationships*. Location: Center for Italian Studies, Stony Brook University's Frank Melville Memorial Library, Room E4340. All are invited. See enclosed invitation.

25, Wednesday, 4:30 p.m.

Dr. Joseph Tromba Series Event: Book Presentation (in English) of Italian publication: *Sense of Origins: A Study of New York's Young Italian Americans, (Il senso delle origini: Indagine sui giovani italoamericani di New York)* with author, Rosemary Serra (University of Trieste). Introduction and Remarks by Fred Gardaphe (Queens College). Location: Center for Italian Studies, Stony Brook University's Frank Melville Memorial Library, Room E4340.

CENTER FOR ITALIAN STUDIES
Stony Brook University
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Stony Brook, NY 11794
(631) 632-7444 www.stonybrook.edu/italianstudies

Director
Mario B. Mignone

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Stony Brook University
Stony Brook, NY 11794-3358

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You are invited

*Opportunity
To Meet and Greet
Former Ambassador of the
United States to Italy and
San Marino:
The Honorable
John Phillips.
Presentation Topic:
"Italy: Challenges and
Opportunities After the
Recent Election"*

*Wednesday,
March 28, 2018, 2:30 p.m.
Location:
Center for Italian Studies
Melville Memorial Library
Room E4340.
~Reception to follow~
RSVP 631-632-7444*

To join us for the visit of
**Minister Francesco Genuardi,
Italian Consul General of New York**

Who will give a talk on the topic:
**Italy and the Tri-State Area;
Working Together
To Strengthen Relationships**

Wednesday, April 18, 2018, 2:30 p.m.
Location: Center for Italian Studies,
Stony Brook University's
Frank Melville Memorial Library
Room E4340
Reception to Follow
RSVP 631-632-7444