

# *Monza News*

*The Benvenuto International Club of Monza*

*March 2018*



*"Elegance is when the inside is as beautiful as outside."  
Coco Chanel*

# MONZA NEWS

The Benvenuto International Club of Monza welcomes English-speaking women from all over the world and fosters international fellowship through various cultural activities; & by assisting in social, humanitarian and cultural projects through our important commitment to charity.

## BOARD MEMBERS 2017-2018

PRESIDENT	<b>Lia Ariosto</b> <a href="mailto:president@benvenutomonza.com">president@benvenutomonza.com</a>
VICE PRESIDENT	<b>Norma Fumagalli</b> <a href="mailto:vicepresident@benvenutomonza.com">vicepresident@benvenutomonza.com</a>
SECRETARY	<b>Chiara Scudeletti</b> <a href="mailto:secretary@benvenutomonza.com">secretary@benvenutomonza.com</a>
TREASURER	<b>Daniela Candutti</b> <a href="mailto:treasurer@benvenutomonza.com">treasurer@benvenutomonza.com</a>
MEMBERSHIP	<b>Chung Lee Sze</b> <a href="mailto:membership@benvenutomonza.com">membership@benvenutomonza.com</a>
NEWCOMERS	<b>Eda Turkhan</b> <a href="mailto:newcomers@benvenutomonza.com">newcomers@benvenutomonza.com</a>
PUBLIC RELATIONS	<b>Andrea Schuster</b> <a href="mailto:publicrelations@benvenutomonza.com">publicrelations@benvenutomonza.com</a>
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES	<b>Urte Grigaliuniene</b> <a href="mailto:specialactivities@benvenutomonza.com">specialactivities@benvenutomonza.com</a>
EDITING TEAM	<b>Anett Roisz / Heidi de Graaf / Manuela Born</b> <a href="mailto:editor@benvenutomonza.com">editor@benvenutomonza.com</a>

## DIGITAL MEDIA

WEB MASTER & FACEBOOK	<b>Tanja Mergenthaler</b> <b>Chung Lee Sze</b>
--------------------------	---

Find us online at [www.benvenutomonza.com](http://www.benvenutomonza.com)



Join us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/Benvenuto International Club of Monza](http://www.facebook.com/BenvenutoInternationalClubofMonza)

Cover photo:

Richard Avedon, Dovima with Elephants, Evening dress by Dior

*Contributed by our member while visiting the 2017 exhibit*

This magazine is kindly printed by:



Via Dante, 81, 20863 Concorezzo (MB)  
tel. 039/6040940 / fax. 039/6203537

# CLUB NOTES

---

## Magazine Submission Guidelines

Please help us make the Monza News the interesting, exciting & informative magazine we all look forward to receiving each month. Continue to send us your articles & images. The content is limited only by our imagination - reflections, articles, feedback, travel tips, comments etc.

Provide written text in a Word document, if possible. Send photos as separate JPEG files. If you are sending images from your smartphone, please send them as an email attachment in JPEG format.

Send all the elements of your submission (text & photos) together in one email to [editor@benvenutomonza.com](mailto:editor@benvenutomonza.com) *by the monthly newsletter submission deadline, the 15th of each month.*

## Inside

Club Notes .....	3-4
President's Letter .....	5
Hot Dates .....	6
Special Activities March.....	7
Annual General Meeting .....	8
March Coffee Morning.....	9
April Special Activities.....	10
Women in the spotlight.....	11
Orphanage Help.....	12-13
English Speaking Club .....	15-20
Thinking about home.....	21
Nature Photography.....	22

### Reaching Out to Us....

This year we are focusing on improving communication, so we have created a few standards to make your notes and comments to the Board arrive more efficiently. Any issues, questions, doubts should be sent via e-mail to [secretary@benvenutomonza.com](mailto:secretary@benvenutomonza.com).

Chiara, our Secretary, will redirect your mail to the appropriate Board member for attention, so you will be assured of a quick response.

### The Benvenuto International Club of Monza



**MONZA  
1990**

## Membership Year

The Benvenuto International Club of Monza membership year runs from September through June of the following year. The Membership Fee for current members is due & payable no later than 31 October of each year. A €10 surcharge will apply for payments received after the specified deadline. For new members, a full year membership fee applies until February, at which time new members pay €40. For any questions about membership, contact [membership@benvenutomonza.com](mailto:membership@benvenutomonza.com).

## Membership Renewal

The Club Membership fee remains at €70.

IBAN: IT79 I03104 34000 0000 0000 8042

Deutsche Bank, Vedano al Lambro

The Benvenuto International Club of Monza

*Please remember to put your full name in the reference (causale) section.*

## Benvenuto International Club of Monza Policies & Practices

A copy of Club Policies & Practices is available at [www.benvenutomonza.com](http://www.benvenutomonza.com).

We encourage all members to familiarise themselves with our guidelines.

## Commercial Sales, Logo, Directory, Member's Services...

No commercial sales are permitted at Club functions, & neither the Benvenuto Club logo nor membership directory is to be used for any commercial purposes. Members providing goods & services are invited to post advertisements in the Monza News.

## Facebook Guidelines

In accordance with Article 8.1.5 of Benvenuto International Club of Monza Policies & Practices Manual, *no posting of any kind with the intention of making profitable gain for the individual members or on behalf of an external party is allowed. For full details, please refer to relevant section of Club Policies & Practices.*

For full details, please refer to relevant section of Club Policies & Practices.

## Advertising

Monza News is published nine (9) times per year.

**Deadline** for submissions: **15th of the month.**

To advertise, contact our Secretary, Chiara Scudeletti; [secretary@benvenutomonza.com](mailto:secretary@benvenutomonza.com).

Monthly advertising rates:	Size	Members	Non-Members
	1/4 Page	€15	€20
	1/2 Page	€25	€30
	Full Page	€50	€60

We respectfully request payment via bonifico:

IBAN: IT79 I03104 34000 0000 0000 8042

Deutsche Bank, Vedano al Lambro

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

---



## Inner Beauty

We learn from philosophy that trueness, goodness and beauty are vehicles to happiness and the pursuit of these qualities lead us onto a path where joys like art, music and passions fulfill our dreams. No doubt there is a connection between what we seek and the inner beauty that is peculiar to each of us.

Today our club celebrates WOMEN through the expression of their passions. This was the play script and I'm greatly thankful to the ladies that have interpreted our idea by stepping up to make the Women's Skills Fair a success by sharing the nature of their motivation in developing their passions.

I already define it a success because as you'll all witness, each presentation unfolds the interesting personality of the author and the many ways women can acknowledge skills even in their most common routines. The range of age, experience, culture and tradition varies significantly among the actors. During our interaction, while we explored the many passions that have lead some of them to base a living on their achievements, we all gained inspiration to contemplate on our inner self.

Hopefully you'll experience the same pleasure that allowed us to build the event on ideas that seemed to flow endlessly, unleashing energy that only women that come together around a common goal can generate. The number of skills we could flaunt grew rapidly as we were able to recognize the potential behind each idea and personal experience.

Continue to enjoy the skills showcased during our Woman's Day event in the coming weeks and months when you'll hear about activities and information connected not only to our exhibitors but also to the teams reporting on the event.

During these past months I've come across quite a number of talents in our Organization and what I just described to be a fulfilling interaction regarding our most recent event has actually been going on with many other

women since last summer when our board began its journey together. Brick after brick we have reached a group of over 50 members always on call ready to pitch in, not to mention the committees, all that revolves around their duties and the yearly events that have gathered the rest of the club around the charity goals, always so important for our Club. A mere word of thanks doesn't convey what I feel for all the GREAT WOMEN that have given me the honor to represent them.

In this edition we will also enjoy the work our Activity Groups are sharing. After that of the Writers' Group delivered a few months ago, in this edition you'll enjoy the effort made by the English Speaking Group to bring to all our readers their views on some outstanding examples of accomplished WOMEN. I send a special message of gratitude to those that have welcomed the important goal of nourishing a more and more informative and involving connection among our members. Hopefully their audience will take the opportunity to add more to what is said and written.

My dear ladies the bottom line here is... let's multiply our interests and skills by sharing as many passions as we can!

As I continue to touch base with my board of which I'm super proud, I'm excited about the unexpected projects that the added teams of assistants will make possible to reach our ideal results. "Great job girls" for having pulled out another edition of our news. Just another set of treasurable memories to store in our hearts and minds!

**always with you,**

**Lia**

# HOT DATES

---

## March

8 Thursday, 9.30h	<b>Monthly Coffee Morning with Women's Skills Fair</b>
15 Thursday, 18h	<b>Working members' Aperitivo</b>
30 Friday	<b>Holiday</b>

## April

1 Sunday	<b>Holiday</b>
2 Monday	<b>Holiday</b>
12 Thursday, 09.30h	<b>Monthly Coffee Morning with Annual General Meeting and Spring Charity Fair</b>
18 Wednesday	<b>Raffaello Exhibit - The Echo of the Myth</b>
25 Wednesday	<b>Holiday</b>

## May

1 Tuesday	<b>Holiday</b>
10 Thursday, 09.30h	<b>Monthly Coffee Morning with Cat Walk</b>
12 Saturday	<b>Wine Trip</b>
20 Sunday	<b>Benvenuto Family Event</b>
25 Friday	<b>Benvenuto Charity Event</b>

## June

2 Saturday	<b>Holiday</b>
7 Thursday, 09.30h	<b>Monthly Coffee Morning</b>
9 Saturday	<b>End of year event</b>

# MARCH SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

---



**8 THURSDAY, 09.30h**

---

**Monthly Coffee Morning**  
**Sporting Club Monza**  
**Viale Brianza 39**

Come join us for our monthly coffee morning held at our favourite venue, the Sporting Club Monza.

Members are welcome to bring a guest to a Coffee Morning to introduce potential members to the Club. The same guest is only allowed to attend a maximum of two Coffee Mornings & our Christmas Meeting each year.

The guest fee is €4.

Babysitting services are offered free of charge during coffee mornings, upon advance booking with Chiara Scudeletti, [secretary@benvenutomonza.com](mailto:secretary@benvenutomonza.com)



**15 THURSDAY, 18h**

---

**Working members' Aperitivo**

Make sure to join us for our next Working members' Aperitivo!

**Time:** Meet: 18 h

**Location:** DOC LOUNGE

Largo Repubblica 7,  
Vedano Al Lambro

**Apartments  
& Villas to rent**

In Monza & Brianza  
All types of relocation work undertaken



**Contact**

Anne Stublely

335 247600

[info@annestublely.com](mailto:info@annestublely.com)

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

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

---

**We'd like to remind our members that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held on APRIL 12, 2018. As required by our Constitution the Agm shall decide on the balance sheet and the budget, on the broad and the specific objectives of the Club, on the Board of Directors nominations and on the Committee of auditors and anything else demanded by Statute**

The candidates for next year's board are listed below. The Nominating Committee will present these candidates to the general membership at the March Coffee Morning on March 8, 2018.

Should there be no further nominations, these candidates will stand as presented and will be voted on at the Annual General Meeting on April 12 2018.

If you are unable to attend the meeting but wish to vote, please remember to deliver the absentee ballot which will be appropriately made available to membership in the member section of our website, to any member of the board or by email to [Membership@benvenutomonza.com](mailto:Membership@benvenutomonza.com) or [President@benventuomonza.com](mailto:President@benventuomonza.com) or vote by proxy.

*The Board*

<b>POSITION</b>	<b>NOMINEE</b>
President	Anna Vicentini
Vice-President	Zizeth Maroun
Treasurer	Irmie Sieber
Secretary	Petra Vismara
Membership Director	Kate Icke
Special Activities Director	Ivana Menegardo
Monza News Director	Cheryl Stockman Chalouhi
Public Relations Director	Maria Teresa Gambaro
Newcomers Director	Janu Soner



## WOMEN'S SKILLS FAIR

WE ALL HAVE SKILLS ... LET'S BRING OUT THE PASSION BEHIND THEM  
MARCH 8TH SPORTING CLUB 9:30 – 13.30

### Our exhibitors

- **Chung Sze Lee** *"Benefits of Origami hobby groups"*  
her passion... HELPING OTHERS
- **Sonja Fritz** *"Be Creative"*  
her passion... DEPICTING THE WORLD
- **Eliane Meyer** *"Her Joys"*  
her passion... CRAFT AND DESIGN
- **Rina Casati** *"Creating Meditation"*  
her passion... HAPPINESS
- **Stefania Aliprandi** *"Essential Oils"*  
her passion... WELL-BEING
- **Lia Orlandi** *" behind the strokes of an artist"*  
her passion... INSPIRING ART
- **Fiamma Pucci** *"Nature Photography"*  
her passion... CAPTURING NATURE
- **Andrea Schuster** *"Coaching with philosophy"*  
her passion... "EXPRESSION AND BODY MOVEMENT"

*the exhibit continues in the partitioned area...Join the special talks and visual sessions prepared by our skilled members:*

10.30 **Andrea Schuster**  
"tAnS" ? a non verbal expression of the self

11.00 **Fiamma Pucci**  
"images found in nature"  
\*walk to Santiago  
\*trip to Ireland

11.20 **Lia Orlandi**  
Learning from an exhibition "Raffaello echo of a myth"

12.00 **Stefania Aliprandi**  
"Inner outer Health"

**Reporter Ginevra Miele**  
interviewing on our passions

**Photographer Elda Elvedese**  
fixing our magic moments

# APRIL SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

---

18<sup>th</sup> April 2018: Raffaello – The echo of the Myth

We are happy to announce that a daytrip to visit the exhibition of **Raffaello** at **Accademia Carrara** in Bergamo is planned.

Don't miss this opportunity to visit the masterpieces by the great maestro. An exciting journey through more than 20 original works and the works of other great artists testifying to the important influence that the art of this maestro from Urbino exerted from the past to the present day.

Please join our Art expert and member, Lia Orlandi, for this exciting museum visit.

Prestigious works on loan from the most famous museums in the world come to Bergamo to compose a path that accompanies us from Raffaello's cultural roots, to the great influence he had on nineteenth-century and contemporary art.

We will leave Monza by train to Bergamo, and reach Fondazione Carrara by bus. After the museum we will visit "Bergamo Alta" to have lunch in a local trattoria and visit the beautiful medieval part of the city of Bergamo. We'll later reach the train station for our return trip to Monza.

Information and details on the trip will be provided at the Coffee Morning. Sign up for the event at the special activities table or write to [specialactivities@benvenutomonza.com](mailto:specialactivities@benvenutomonza.com)



Congratulations to Chiara and her husband on the birth of Emma's little sister "Giulia".

# WOMEN IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Museo Etnologico in Monza shows heritage of dr Guffanti

Wednesday March 8<sup>th</sup> we celebrate Woman’s day. A perfect day for a sfilata (fashion show) in honour of Dr Adele Guffanti. Dr Guffanti donated many of her high class dresses to the museo Etnologico of Monza.

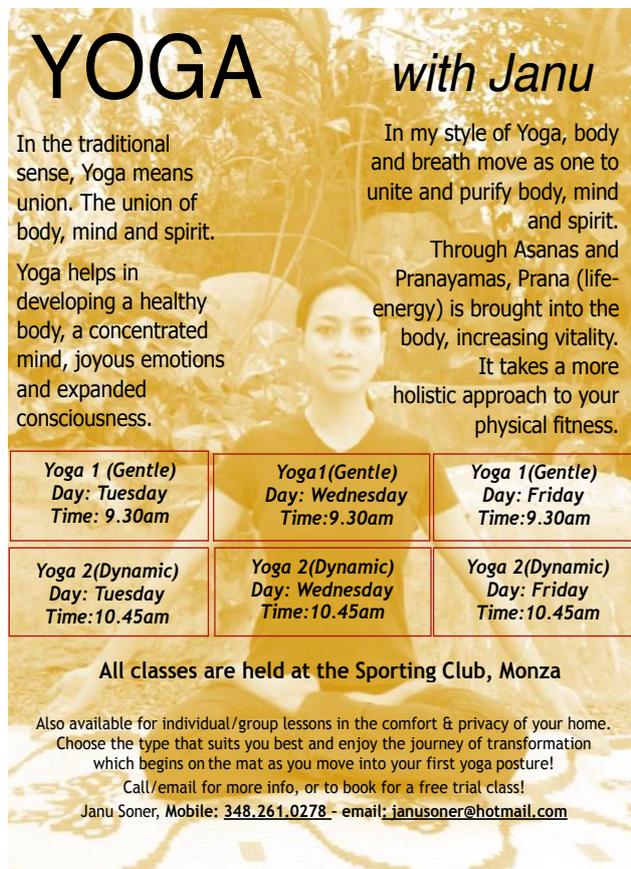
The vice president of the museum asked our member, Irmi Muratore to organize a “sfilata” so everyone can admire them and to put the museum in the spotlight.

Dr Guffanti passed away in 2016 at the age of 89. She was well known in Monza because of her work as an eye specialist and she founded the local sections of Fai, Italia Nostra, Aido and Soroptmist Monza.

Dr Guffanti was one of the first Italian female doctors. She studied in The United States and worked at San Gerardo and Buzzi hospital. She loved culture, music and travelling. She left the museum many dresses. They illustrate the life she led in the eighties and nineties of the previous century.

Many women from our Benvenuto Club have been asked to show these interesting dresses. The sfilata will be on March 8<sup>th</sup> at 19.30 at the Oasi di San Gerardo in Monza.

## Heidy de Graaf



# YOGA *with Janu*

In the traditional sense, Yoga means union. The union of body, mind and spirit.

Yoga helps in developing a healthy body, a concentrated mind, joyous emotions and expanded consciousness.

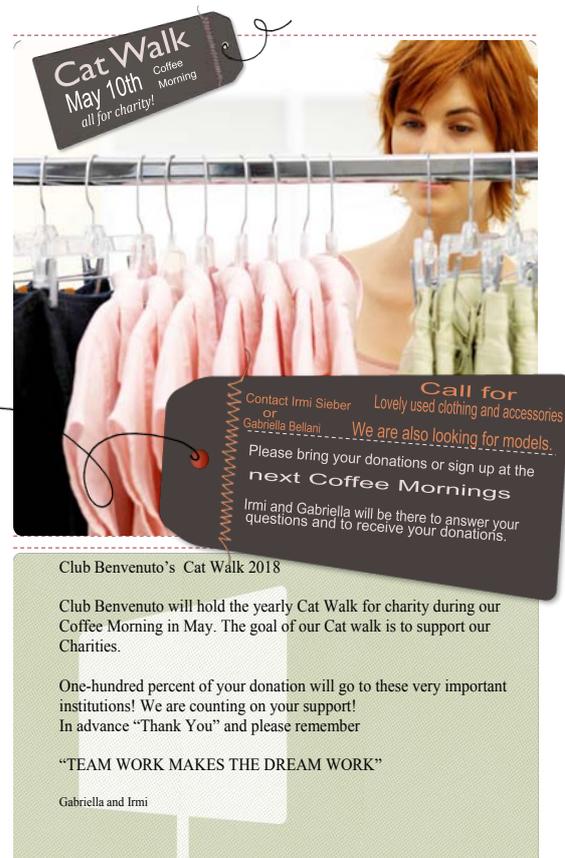
In my style of Yoga, body and breath move as one to unite and purify body, mind and spirit.

Through Asanas and Pranayamas, Prana (life-energy) is brought into the body, increasing vitality. It takes a more holistic approach to your physical fitness.

<b>Yoga 1 (Gentle)</b> Day: Tuesday Time: 9.30am	<b>Yoga1(Gentle)</b> Day: Wednesday Time:9.30am	<b>Yoga 1(Gentle)</b> Day: Friday Time:9.30am
<b>Yoga 2(Dynamic)</b> Day: Tuesday Time:10.45am	<b>Yoga 2(Dynamic)</b> Day: Wednesday Time:10.45am	<b>Yoga 2(Dynamic)</b> Day: Friday Time:10.45am

**All classes are held at the Sporting Club, Monza**

Also available for individual/group lessons in the comfort & privacy of your home. Choose the type that suits you best and enjoy the journey of transformation which begins on the mat as you move into your first yoga posture!  
 Call/email for more info, or to book for a free trial class!  
 Janu Soner, Mobile: 348.261.0278 - email: janusoner@hotmail.com



**Cat Walk**  
 May 10<sup>th</sup> Coffee Morning  
 all for charity!

**Call for** Lovely used clothing and accessories  
 We are also looking for models.

Contact Irmi Sieber or Gabriella Bellani  
 Please bring your donations or sign up at the next Coffee Mornings

Irmi and Gabriella will be there to answer your questions and to receive your donations.

Club Benvenuto’s Cat Walk 2018

Club Benvenuto will hold the yearly Cat Walk for charity during our Coffee Morning in May. The goal of our Cat walk is to support our Charities.

One-hundred percent of your donation will go to these very important institutions! We are counting on your support!  
 In advance “Thank You” and please remember

“TEAM WORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK”

Gabriella and Irmi

# ORPHANAGE VOLUNTEER HELP IN INDIA

---



During my life in Pune, India, I volunteered at an orphanage, a special childcare centre, located in the local Sasson hospital ground. The centre is supported by donations and sponsored by companies from all over the world. The organization takes care of the ones abandoned, orphans, age groups ranging from newborns to 6 year olds. Alongside being cared for, these children are also up for adoption. One day, an American lady attended our monthly German coffee mornings and talked about her “First hug” initially, looking for volunteers, who would visit the orphanage regularly and help. I decided to go there once or twice a week during the mornings for 2- 3 hours. I was registered and was told that I could start to help out with the children ages 3 months to one year. The room in the orphanage was fairly big, furnished with 18 cradles, a kitchenette, a big sink for bathing the kids, a desk for the nurse and doctor, and a balcony.

I started around 10 A.M. in the mornings, when the helpers were still busy with giving the children baths, dressing them, doctor visits, preparing the required medication, weighing, and so on. Some of the kids were picked up from the staff members, having them taken to their physiotherapy sessions. The main role for us volunteers was to give the little ones attention and to interact with them, by holding them, hugging them and talking to them. The majority of the kids have a miserable background, where the mother is either involved with prostitution, has HIV, is a single unmarried woman or is a migrant worker. Several children were found on the street or come from poor families who cannot take care of their child and are not possible to provide medication for their child’s sickness or disability.



My priority was always to take caution by wearing socks, as you should never enter barefoot, due to a possible infection that can occur even if the floors and surroundings were quite clean. However, if you imagine a room with so many kids, it is always likely that one of them is sick. If a child is seriously ill, they will bring the child to the hospital.

Usually around 11.45 A.M. the feeding time started, so the daily helpers and the volunteers would start giving bottles or brew for the elderly kids. The nurses had their own feeding routine, which at the beginning was hard to see how the kids occasionally were fed. But they loved the kids, hugged and kissed them too, even if there was a rough voice sometimes. I had to accept the way they do their work and that was fine, nobody criticized. As they did not speak English and I did not speak

# ORPHANAGE VOLUNTEER HELP IN INDIA

---



Marathi nor Hindi, we communicated with hands, feet, and smiles. After a period of time, we had to feed the kids with spoons instead of a bottle. This advice was given by a doctor and we didn't know the reason for this. Can you imagine how difficult it was for the little ones? However, this was not our right to decide.

After the feeding, we prepared them for their afternoon nap. It is amazing how quick the kids fall asleep, already used to these daily routines, even with all the surrounding noise. It was not possible to take a walk with them outside, as there were no strollers and no space. Only for the older ones there was a playground outside. When the weather was not so hot, we would put blankets out on the balcony and let the young ones lay on them in order for them to catch vitamin D and a bit of "fresh air". We had to wave some cloths around to protect the children from all the flies.

It was possible for students from Europe to do a social year at the orphanage. I met some young German girls who helped for the whole day, with all the age groups, which I found brave. They helped out wherever help was needed. The girls would eat there too and they shared a room in an apartment in the town. During my time at the orphanage, I met a pretty Indian girl who lives in London and came here for one year. Sometimes we sat on the floor and played with the kids as we chatted a bit. Then one day a nice looking Englishmen visited the yard and the girl introduced me to him, and said her time is over now as she is headed back to England. It was her father. She was an orphan too in this centre, and was adopted when she was little. She had never mentioned it before. She had proudly told me her story, as we shared a few tears.

All the kids are so adorable and lovable. Each helper at the orphanage had their favourite child. For example the little boy who was always smiling, I fell in love with him. Through a nurse, I found out that his grandfather had brought him to the ward. The boy's parents were migrant workers and already had a lot of children. After I returned back to Pune from a long summer break, the little boy was not there anymore. His grandfather had picked him up. Hopefully this time he could stay with them and receive the care he needs.

Sonja

***Thank you to our member Sonja Fritz for sharing her inspirational international experience!***



TRATTAMENTI:

- Filler e Biorivitalizzazione (A. Ialuronico),
- Botulino,
- Blefaroplastica non chirurgica Plexr®
- Dermatologia Estetica,
- Peeling Chimici,
- Trattamento delle adiposità localizzate,
- Mesoterapia,
- Carbossiterapia,
- Radiofrequenza Medica,
- Intralipoterapia
- Dieta personalizzata,
- T.R.A.P.  
Fleboterapia Rigenerativa Tridimensionale Ambulatoriale
- Scleroterapia

ALTRI SERVIZI:

- Consulenza di Medicina Termale,
- Consulenza Cosmetica e Cosmeceutica,
- Medicina Preventiva,
- Tear Terapia
- Mesoterapia antalgica e miorelissante

## Medicina Estetica

Dr. Villa Marco

Corso Milano 38, Monza (MB)

Tel 039.386664 - Tel. 348.6488095

[info@polistudiomonza.it](mailto:info@polistudiomonza.it)

(si riceve previo appuntamento)

# THE ENGLISH SPEAKING GROUP

---

The English Speaking Group is one of the Activity groups of our club that meets twice a month with the purpose of improving their knowledge of the English language. With the help of English mother tongue teachers (members of our club), we read articles in English and have a little conversation about them. We decided to prepare a few short articles for Monza news focused on some important Italian ladies who excelled in different fields.

***WE WHOLEHEARTEDLY THANK OUR ACTIVITY GROUPS FOR SHARING...***

## **RITA LEVI MONTALCINI - A life for science**



By Mara Canti

**“Above all, don’t fear difficult moments. The best comes from them.” – Rita Levi Montalcini**

Today women have occupied a greater space in the field of science, proving that they are capable of equating men in their abilities to conduct scientific research. They have taken significant positions in the scientific field as compared to the more traditional roles: mother, wife, and homemaker that existed in the past centuries.

### **Early Life, Education and Career Achievements:**

Rita Levi-Montalcini was born on April 22, 1909, in Turin to a Jewish family. She was the youngest child of her parents, Adamo Levi, an electrical engineer and talented mathematician, and Adele Montalcini, a painter. She enrolled in the University of Turin in 1930 to study medicine, despite her father’s belief that women should not pursue careers, and did research there on the effects that peripheral tissues have on nerve cell growth.

Although she was forced into hiding in Florence during the German occupation of Italy (1943–45) because of her Jewish ancestry, she simply constructed a laboratory in her own home and conducted research in secrecy. For the next few years conducted experiments on chicken embryos and she, and her family, would cook and eat the remaining yolks.

“This led me to the joy of working, no longer, unfortunately, in university institutes, but in a bedroom

## THE ENGLISH SPEAKING GROUP

---

While acting as a doctor in Italian refugee camps, she took out time to publish her research on the sources of nerve constructs. Rita Levi-Montalcini was able to resume her research at Turin after the war.

In 1947, she accepted a one-year residency at Washington University in St Louis, but stayed more than three decades. She worked together with zoologist Viktor Hamburger and, after sometime, with biochemist Stanley Cohen, pioneering nerve-growth factor (NGF) and epidermal growth factor (EGF). She eventually held dual citizenship in Italy and the United States.

She won the 1986 Nobel Prize for physiology or medicine which she shared with the biochemist Cohen, for their discovery of nerve growth factor (NGF), a protein that causes developing cells to grow by stimulating surrounding nerve tissue. At 101 years, she had the stamina that many younger people might envy. On her workdays Rita gave equal time to her namesake brain research laboratory and her foundation to support African women with potential for scientific accomplishment.

Indeed, the latter part of Levi-Montalcini's life consisted of a long list of scientific prizes and honors. In 1987 she was awarded the National Medal of Science, and an autobiographical work, *In Praise of Imperfection*, was published in 1988. In addition to her continuing research, she was an FAO Goodwill Ambassador (1999) and an Italian Senator For life (2001). She died on December 30, 2012, Rome, at the age of 103.

“It is imperative that we support FAO's campaign, urging young people, who more than adults enjoy the ability to spring into action, to play what could be a decisive role in the elimination of this tragic reality. I ask you to join us by participating in FAO's campaign against world hunger”.

Italian Neurophysiologist, Rita Levi-Montalcini was one exceptional woman, who through her pioneering contribution and hard work has set an amazing example for other women to follow her  
footstep.

Mara Canti



dal 1991 fotografo per passione

 **PHOTOPIU'**  
S T U D I O

Matrimoni, feste, eventi aziendali, foto industriali, book,  
stampe da file, fototessere con amore, prodotti artigianali su misura.

**Concorezzo**  
Via Libertà 151 tel 039.648411

[www.studiophotopiu.it](http://www.studiophotopiu.it) [info@studiophotopiu.it](mailto:info@studiophotopiu.it)

# THE ENGLISH SPEAKING GROUP

---

## FRANCA VIOLA



By Giovanna Casati

This name is probably unknown to youngest Italians and of sure to foreigners. Franca Viola has been one of the first symbols of women's emancipation and civil growth in Italy.

She has been the first Italian woman to refuse the “matrimonio riparatore”(remedial marriage). Let's see her story. Franca was born in Alcamo (Trapani-Sicily) in 1948.

Her parents were farmers and, when Franca was just fifteen years old, planned her engagement with Franco Melodia, one rich grandson of a member of the local mafia. Finally, Franca's father cancelled the engagement because Melodia was arrested for theft.

Melodia emigrated then to Germany and when he returned to Italy, he sought to revenge and he threatened Franca's family.

In 1965, with the help of twelve friends of his, he kidnapped Franca. During the segregation, Franca has been raped and, after eight days, the police freed her and arrested Melodia.

To avoid prison, he thought to use the remedial marriage that, according to the Italian law (article 544 of the penal code) exonerated the kidnapper who would have married his victim.

According to the moral sense of that time, it was recommended, for a girl with this kind of experience, to marry her kidnapper saving in this way herself and her family's honour.

Franca refused to marry him and a trial started.

The media's attention was very high because, for the first time, a woman challenged mafia and the rules of honour of those times.

Melodia was sentenced to eleven years of jail and after his release, someone killed him.

In Italy, Franca became a symbol of freedom for all women.

The law article 544 of the penal code was cancelled just in 1981, sixteen years after Franca's kidnapping.

In 1968 Franca got married with a childhood friend. She received the greetings from Italian President Saragat and had a private audience with Pope Paolo VI.

A film based on her story was produced in 1970 (La moglie piu' bella by Damiano Damiani).

In 2014, Italian President Napolitano gave her a very important honour with this motivation “For the brave gesture of refusing the remedial marriage, making an important milestone for the women's emancipation in Italy”.

# THE ENGLISH SPEAKING GROUP

---

## ANNA MAGNANI – A famous Italian stage and film actress



Anna Magnani was an Oscar winning actress who dominated Italian cinema for more than three decades and at the same time acted in many hit Hollywood films.

Her eyes were encircled by deep shadows and a disorganized mass of hair always surrounded her face; yet she bubbled with earthiness that her fans found so very fascinating.

More importantly, she could portray all kinds of emotions so strongly that when she laughed the spectators laughed with her and when she cried, they could feel the sadness in their heart.

Personally, she was a bundle of contradiction. She had such a very strong temper and had known to throw plates and glasses in fits of rage. At the same time she was a loving mother.

Anna Magnani was born on March 7th, 1908, in Porta Pia in Rome.

In all probability, her father was an Italian from Calabria region; but some also say that he was an Egyptian by birth. Anna did not know his name and had never met him.

Her mother Marina Magnani was married in Egypt but came back to Rome before Anna was born. She later left Anna in the care of her own mother and did not return.

Anna was frail and plain. She was brought up by her maternal grandmother in the slum district of Rome. She provided her with love and care. Yet, Anna felt forlorn and befriended street kids, who were often rough and tough.

Her grandparents enrolled her at a French Convent school in Rome. Here, she learnt to play the piano and also to speak French. The Nuns in the school used to enact Christmas plays and young Anna watched them with fascination. Soon she also developed a passion for acting.

At age 17, she went on to study at the Eleonora Duse Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in Rome for two years. To support herself, Magnani sang in night clubs and cabarets, leading to her being dubbed "the Italian Edith Piaf".

During her career, her only child was stricken by polio when he was 18 months old and remained crippled. She worked hard to make sure that his son would have a respectable life.

She was referred to as "La Lupa", the "perennial toast of Rome" and a "living she-wolf symbol" of the cinema. Time magazine described her personality as "fiery", and drama critic Harold Clurman said her acting was "volcanic".

She made her film debut in *La cieca di Sorrento* (1934; *The Blind Woman of Sorrento*).

When Anna Magnani appeared in Roberto Rossellini's classic Neorealist film *Roma città aperta* (1945; *Open City*) she achieved international renown.

# THE ENGLISH SPEAKING GROUP

---

Directed by Roberto Rossellini in a documentary style, that was innovative, *Open City*, also called *Rome Open City*, portrayed life in Nazi-occupied Rome during World War II.

For the time, the movie brought international attention to the Neorealist movement and became one of its defining works, influencing numerous later filmmakers.

Rossellini fell in love with the person and the actress. He cast her in both parts of his film *L'Amore* (1948): she played the woman on the telephone in *The Human Voice* (by Cocteau) driven to desperation by a lover who is abandoning her; and she was the simple peasant woman, seduced by a scoundrel (played by Federico Fellini), who thinks she has been impregnated by an angel.

When the relationship was over, Magnani would be replaced by the younger and more classically beautiful Bergman.

Anna Magnani, representative of her many roles, in which she often portrayed emotions that ranged from mental torment and deep grief to exuberant comedy, were the dynamic housewife in *L'onorevole Angelina* (1947), who led a fight against black-marketeering in postwar Italy; a shepherdess in *Il miracolo* (1948) *The Miracle*, who was seduced by a stranger she imagined to be a saint; an aggressive stage mother in *Bellissima* (1951); the robust widow of a truck driver in *The Rose Tattoo* (1955), her first Hollywood film, for which she won the Academy Award for best actress; and the wife of an Italian mayor in *The Secret of Santa Vittoria* (1969).

Many actresses might have yielded to fate and time. But Magnani became fiercer under challenge, and it was as if the Italian public fell more in love with her in the great scandal of the Rossellini-Bergman affair. When Rossellini and Bergman went off together to the volcanic island of Stromboli to make the first in a series of films about marriage, Magnani responded with her own eruptive film, *Volcano* (1950).

Exceptionally creative and original, Anna possesses a touch of the unusual. Her approach to problems is unique and she has the courage to wander from the traditional templates of thoughts and deeds

Anna was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Hollywood Boulevard.

She died in Rome on 26th September 1973. She was then 65 years old. A huge crowd gathered at her funeral.

Patricia Mariani

## GRAZIA DELEDDA



By Laura Panzeri

I am spending a large part of the year in Sardinia, a region that I love, that's why I wish to tell you about a Sardinian writer who was the first Italian woman who has received the Nobel Prize. The second and only one was Rita Levi Montalcini for medicine.

Grazia Maria Cosima Damiana Deledda was born in a little village Nuoro on 27th September 1871. She grew up in a wealthy family where her father held a degree in law and her mother was taking care of the 7 children. Grazia attended the elementary school until eleven and then continued her apprenticeship in the field of literature with a private tutor at home studying also French and Latin.

The tutor encouraged her to send to any publication the stories she wrote and she was only fifteen when the first short story was published in a magazine of the region. The first novel "SANGUE SARDO" caused surprise among the literary media.

The take off of Deledda as author of success began with the publication of the novel "ANIME ONESTE" in 1895 and the prestigious critic Luigi Capuana qualified her as a good representative of "Realism" a literary movement developed in Italy and that was characterized by a mixture of positivism and naturalism. She published other novels where the influence of the culture of rural Sardinia was always present.

Customs and tradition of Sardinia as well as the hard life of the people there were subjects of her writing. She wrote always in Italian ignoring the dialect that appears occasionally in the dialogues or some idioms.

She also wrote a lot about women and their suffering and pain.

Her first internationally successful novel "ELIAS PORTOLU" was published in 1903. The book was first translated in French and then into all other European languages and thanks to such translations she became a well-known name in European literary circles. The period between 1903 and 1920 was the most productive phase for her. In 1913 she wrote "CANNE AL VENTO" the most famous work. In all, she wrote more than forty novels and published around eighteen collections of short stories.

Grazia Deledda received her NOBEL PRIZE in Literature in 1926. In the bulletin the Swedish Academy had said that the writer was honored "for her idealistically inspired writings which plastic clarity picture the life on her native Island and with depth and sympathy deal with human problems in general."

Her last two books "COSIMA" 1937 and a collection of short stories "IL CEDRO DEL LIBANO" 1939 were published after her death in Rome in 1936.

Laura Panzeri

# THINKING ABOUT HOME

---



The Benvenuto Club ...how to describe it? Oh no, certainly NOT the “typical “Club OR women”.... but much a diversity of - a variety of ladies - from all around the world – what do they have in common, so I wondered?– and two thoughts popped up in my mind.....well, most of us found a new home right here....but home could also be far away from here.....?

Another “common ground” seems to be the connectedness in a creative way...they love to travel, bake, share thoughts on books, fashion, culture, photography – and so much more....so to mind comes instantly to find a moment to share a moment, to express our common experience in a creative way...

So , not far from “Gestalt - thinking”...which reaches out for any creative expression of a thought, an emotion or a Zeitgeist it seemed appropriate to celebrate a moment together and find a color to express our own, personal and individual feeling of “...HOME”. The result? Of course – a rainbow ☺. Thank you all for being so open and for joining in

Andrea Schuster

# Nature Photography by Fiamma Pucci

---

The first time I approached photography was about 12 years ago when I moved back to Monza. I was looking for some after-work activity that would enable me to meet new people and develop the artistic side well hidden inside myself.

At that time, I joined a photography society that was also running fundamental photography courses. In a few months I had reached my goals: new friends, new art, new activity! It took a few years to understand which type of photography was my style: I love nature and wild animals above anything else and NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY became my favorite.

Over the years I have made some peculiar experiences that brought to these pictures you are looking at here.

The first one was when I met Will Nicholls: he was still a boy of 16 heading for 17 and was holding one-to-one photography workshops in Northumberland (trying to save money for University): we spent 3 hours in a hiding tent in a small wood near his home. Luckily, he brought a thermos of warm tea, as it was winter and very cold!! There I shot the red squirrels images and some of the small birds like the woodpecker and the tit. Now Will is a well-known (not famous yet) wildlife photographer sponsored by the most important companies manufacturing cameras, lenses and other equipment.

Another wonderful experience I had, was with Guy



Edwardes in Ireland: famous photographer specialized in wild birds. He was holding a workshop for maximum 5 people on a tiny island out of Kilmore Quay in the south of Ireland. We were taken to the island twice a day by fishermen at 5am (back at 10am) and at 5pm (back at 10pm). The island is a protected area for wild birds, and after 5 days spent among gannets, puffins and razorbills, we were accepted by the birds and managed to get very close to their chicks. It was very emotional.

Other of these photos have been shot in the park of Monza or in Central Park (NY) or in Tuscany, or anywhere I find something interesting. I often go to the Oasi of Sant' Alessio, near Pavia, where the animals are kept quite wild.

Unfortunately, due to the lack of time I am experiencing, I don't go photographing as often as I used to, and I miss it a lot. Mostly, I miss the feeling I have while holding my camera and looking at things from behind the lens: it's like anything else disappears, I feel the silence of Nature, I study in the little viewfinder the composition, the animal, the landscape, I settle the focus and wait for the perfect moment. Sometimes I miss it. But this only makes it more precious and happy the times I manage to get it. When you sit (or knee or lie) for hours waiting for animals and then looking at them, you are always rewarded: you see them in the natural environment, undisturbed and wild. The first few moments I always look at them. Sometimes they pass away before I manage to shoot, but the feeling they leave on me is fantastic.



**Equipment:** Cameras: Nikon D50 – Nikon D7000 – Nikon Coolpix (pocket camera)

Lenses: Tamron 70-300mm F/4-5.6; Sigma 170-500mm 1:5-6.3 APO; Sigma 18-125 F/3.5-5.6

Tripod: Manfrotto 190XPROB with head 808RC4

# LA SCUOLA DEI SOGNI

## NURSERY – KINDERGARTEN

The Infant-Toddler Centre and the Early Years Unit (Asilo Mandorla 0-6 years old) are created in collaboration with Reggio Children. Relying on the support of Reggio Children means benefitting from a pedagogical know-how that is based on active listening between child, teacher and parents.

If you are interested in learning more about the Reggio Emilia Approach, visit <http://www.reggiochildren.it>

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

The H-FARM Educational project is characterized by an innovative approach in teaching and learning. In H-IS we do believe ideas come to life combining imagination and resourcefulness to create the citizens of tomorrow.

Visit our website <https://www.h-is.com/en/schools/monza>



### CONTACTS

Address: via Confalonieri 18, 20900 Monza (MB)  
E-mail: [info.monza@h-is.com](mailto:info.monza@h-is.com)





# Intraceuticals Oxygen



**20% DISCOUNT FOR BENVENUTO CLUB MEMBERS**