



# ITALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

editor: lou perry    dicembre 2005    membership: mary perry    kentuckiana

## *Il Messaggio dal Presidente:*

I say it all the time, and I will say it again here, one of the things I enjoy most about being a member of the IAA is the monthly gathering of the organization. Added to the enjoyment of our monthly gathering this November was the **election of the 2006 board members and executive officers** of the IAA. The election meeting is always exciting because the board gets feedback from the membership regarding its performance over the past year. Before enjoying the always-fabulous buffet prepared by the friendly folks at Clifton's Pizza, members of the IAA cast their ballots for the members of the board of directors. **Mary Perry**, whose term was up, was again reelected to the board. **Mary Rose Mattei** volunteered to return to the board and was elected. The board also welcomes first-time board member **Vicki Spradlin**, who was also elected that evening. Following the election to fill board vacancies, those IAA members voting in the election displayed an overwhelming sense of satisfaction with the executive board with the reelection of Mary Perry as Treasurer, Lou Perry as secretary, Bob Scorsolini as vice president, and Bernie Carducci as president. The other members on the board returning for another year of service include Bob Waters, Paul Castagno, Marty Hanka, Ann Moir, Jim Flitt, Katherine Pulzone, and Tom Moore. Please congratulate all of these individuals who were elected and express your gratitude to all of the board members for their willingness to serve the IAA. Without the efforts of such a fine board of directors and executive officers, the IAA would not be the vital and active organization it has been over the past year. And speaking of being active, I look forward to seeing all of you at the Annual IAA Family Christmas Dinner at St. Joseph Children Home on Sunday, December 11th, which is described in more detail below.

Once again, I am honored that you have given me the opportunity to serve a president of this organization that means so much to me.

Warmest regards,  
Bernardo J. Carducci, President

### WHAT DO ALL THESE HAVE IN COMMON?

**GRECCIO, Italy**                      **Il Presepe**  
**St. Bonaventure and Thomas of Celano**  
**Christmas Eve in 1223**              **Gesù Bambino**  
mule and an ox                      **St. Francis of Assisi**  
**Crèche**    La Befana    Magi's visit      **Star of Bethlehem**  
**Gospels of St. Luke and St. Matthew**

### NEXT SOCIAL ACTIVITY

**IAA CHRISTMAS GATHERING**  
**December 11 at 12 noon, St. Joseph's**  
**(see p 3 for details)**

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Countless foreigners travel to Italy during the Christmas season, and while they thrill to midnight mass in St. Peter's Square, they often complain that Italy is "not very Christmasy." This is certainly true if you're looking for brightly-lit fir trees, red and green window dressings or plaster reindeer. And although Epiphany, celebrated on January 6th, may actually be a more important holiday than December 25th, the Italians love this season so much that they commemorate it for an entire month, beginning on December 8th.

For many generations, the principal gift-bringer in some areas was a uniquely Italian folk character named **La Befana** who would distribute toys in honor of Epiphany, January 6th, when the season comes to its official end. In other areas (Venice and Mantova) **St. Lucia** distributed gifts and in some regions **Gesu' Bambino**, or Child Jesus, brought Christmas gifts. Due to modern communications, **Santa Claus** has made incursions into Italy's traditions, and now he makes his rounds in various regions on Christmas Eve as *Babbo Natale*, Father Christmas.

**BUON NATALE !**  
**(Merry Christmas)**

## ANNUAL EVENTS IN ITALY

**PRESEPIO** (Nativity Scene) -- almost every village and city in Italy presents a unique, community Nativity Scene. This Italian invention is one of the oldest purely Christian traditions that has had a truly international impact. An anonymous Italian sculpted a bas-relief on an Early Christian sarcophagus in 342 AD. However, the first true presepio was invented by Saint Francis of Assisi. To celebrate Christmas of 1223, the medieval populist/Saint asked a landowner friend of his, Giovanni Vellita, to place an ox and an donkey next to an empty manger filled with hay outside of the church he had rebuilt in **Greccio**. The simplicity of this first presepio and the direct emotional appeal of this potent icon had deep religious resonance with early Franciscans, who zealously promoted its use in all their churches worldwide. Presepi are a time-honored tradition in **Naples** that is credited with putting the idea of the Nativity into mainstream life in Italy.

**NATALE** - Christmas Day - The commemoration of the birth of Christ. The first Christmas celebration took place in Italy in the year 336, after the Emperor Constantine approved Christian worship in the Empire; it is considered one of the most sacred and holy holidays in Italy. For this reason, all stores, banks, public services and offices, businesses, newsstands and bars are closed. Everything, in other words, except the hearts and homes of the people who celebrate this holiday with the utmost reverence. Keep in mind that the day after is Santo Stefano Day (celebrates the announcement of the birth of Jesus). It's interesting that the traditional colors of Christmas - red, white and green - are the same as the Italian flag.

**BIGGEST CHRISTMAS TREE in the World** according to the Guinness Book of World Records - citta of **Gubbio**, Perugia province; **UMBRIA** ; December 7th thru January 10 -- but it's not a real tree...it's a collection of over 800 water-fountains that are illuminated (with over 12 kilometers of electrical cable) to form the shape of a gigantic illuminated Christmas Tree. The base of the tree starts at the last wood and stone house at the top edge of the historical center of town and rises up the side of Mount Igino to the summit where the star of the tree is mounted on the cathedral of Sant'Ubaldo. This is the symbol of Gubbio at Christmas and is one of the most spectacular displays you'll ever witness! There are also life-sized artistic nativity scenes in Parco della Vittorina and a huge, decorated tree in the downtown area. This is an ancient Etruscan city that spellbinds the newcomer with its ancient ambience.

**HANUKKAH - a Jewish Feast of Lights** – December 4 thru 11, observed in all Jewish synagogues and households in Italy --- celebrating the victory of the Maccabees and rededication of the Temple. Many people are shocked to hear that 80% of Jews in Italy survived the Holocaust while 80% of the Jews outside of Italy perished. Today there are around 35,000 Italian Jews that survived Mussolini's 1938 race laws and Nazism. The Venetian Jewish community lived confined to the Ghetto from 1516 until 1797 when Napoleon put an end to their segregation and had the Ghetto gates destroyed; Rome's ghetto came into existence shortly thereafter (in 1555) when Pope Paul IV issued his famous papal decree that held that it was absurd for Jews to live alongside Christians. Jews were also confined to ghettos in Mantua, Asti and Torino. Roman Jews make up the oldest, uninterrupted community in Europe, dating back to 161 B.C., when, as political delegates sent by Judas the Maccabee, they came to ask for protection against Antioch IV.



2311 Frankfort Ave.  
899-5575

Take your "BIRTHDAY HONEY" out for a great Nana Rose – inspired pasta, salad dish at **RAY PARRELLA'S ITALIAN CUISINE**

## BIRTHDAYS --- Dicembre 2005

### BUON COMPLEANNO !!

Last Name	First Name	Birthdate
Hambleton	James	12/3
Mula	Joseph	12/22
Pusateri	Evelyn	12/23
Rothenburger	Robert	12/18
Scorsolini	Bob	12/3
Waters	Mary Margaret	12/28
Camarata	Joseph	12/31
Young	Joanna	12/4
Rosencrans	Richard	12/2
Brignola	Sally	12/14
Badaracco	Martha	12/18
White	Ron	12/9
<b>Gesu'</b>	<b>Bambino</b>	<b>12/25</b>

### SING.....

"Tanti auguri a te,  
Tanti auguri a te,  
Tanti auguri a (name of person),  
Tanti a auguri a TE!"

It is the same tune as our:

"Happy Birthday to You"

(our database has these names only....., please if you see an omission, contact us).

### INFLATION

It costs more to buy a new car today in the United States than it cost Christopher Columbus to equip and undertake three voyages to and from the New World.



**HO !! HO ! HO !**



**CHE PASSA!  
(WHAT'S HAPPENING !)**

**IAA CHRISTMAS GATHERING**

**Sunday, December 11** - It's the most wonderful time of the year.....**FOOD – FRIENDS – CHARITY – 2006 MEMBERSHIP SIGN-UP - ENTERTAINMENT – GAMES, CAROLING, and, of course, a visit by SANTA.....** did I mention 2006 Membership sign-up (see form on the last page) – all 2006 signed-up members' names will be eligible for door prizes (bring your checkbook).

Remember we are blessed to be with our families and friends at Christmas, and it is always nice to share a little of that time with the kids and caregivers at St. Joseph. Held in the St. Joseph Children's Home – Café at 2823 Frankfort Ave from 12:00 noon to 5pm; the food as always anchors the event and treats the palate. Chef, entrepreneur, and IAA member Bob Waters of **BLACK OLIVE Catering** will prepare Italian Sausage with pasta and marinara, a tossed salad, and garlic-butter bread, and a meatless pasta dish for our vegetarians. Also, IAA will provide sodas with ice and coffee. The **IAA membership** should bring an Italian-style dish that would serve 12 or more based on the 1<sup>st</sup> letter of your last name, thus:

- A – F ..... Vegetable Tray
- G – L .....Hot Casserole
- M – R .....Dessert
- S – Z .....Cold Casserole or Fruit Dish

This an **alcohol-free** event

**TIME**....Socializing begins at noon and the dinner bell rings at 12:30 pm for the St. Joseph children and caretakers followed immediately by the IAA families.

**GIFT**.... Each family should bring one gift for each of their children/grandchildren....wrapped and tagged. IAA will provide the gifts for St. Joe kids. As is our tradition, Santa will handout the gifts to the children and grandchildren and the children of St. Joe's.

**COST**: free to members and their family.

**RSVP**....to Bernie Carducci at 812-282-3938 or by email: bcarducc@ius.edu by Thursday, Dec. 8 with your name, number in your party, and the dish you plan to bring.

**VOLUNTEERS**: We will need volunteers to help with some light preparation prior to the event and simple cleanup after the event. If you can volunteer some time, contact Bernie at 812.282.3938 or bcarducc@ius.edu



**Ninnananna di Gesù Bambino  
(Italiano)**

Gesù Bambino è nato,  
è nato in Betlem;  
è sopra un po' di paglia,  
è sopra un po' di fien.  
E' sopra un po' di fien.  
Gesù Bambino piange,  
la mamma che lo adora,  
è sopra un po' di fien.

**Infant Jesus' Lullaby  
(English)**

Infant Jesus is born,  
is born in Bethlehem;  
He's lying on straw,  
He's lying on hay.  
He's lying on hay.  
Infant Jesus is crying,  
His mother is adoring  
him,  
He's lying on hay.

**PULZONE's CINEMA PIC**

**Under the Tuscan Sun**

by Katherine Pulzone, IAA Board Member

Here's another must see for Italy lovers, starring Diane Lane and Sandra Oh and a superb supporting cast. Filmed in Cortona, Italy, Florence and the awesome Amalfi coastal town of Positano, the photography alone will leave you breathless. Based on the highly acclaimed novel of the same name, Diane Lane plays a divorced American who takes a trip to Tuscany and discovers a villa for sale, buys it, hires a group of Polish immigrants to fix it up and slowly finds true happiness. It's a romantic comedy that you will definitely see several times, if only to see the beauty of Italy. It's a definite packing my bags I'm going movie. The most comical aspect is that Diane Lane speaks only English in an Italian speaking world with workers who only speak Polish. Most definitely a four star movie.

**JOKE** .....Gioco pronounced -gee oh ko-, means game. So, Carte da Gioco are playing cards. Giocare -gee oh car eh- means to play. Where do you think the English word "joke" came from?

**Merry Christmas**



## B-I-N-G-O AN ITALIAN TEEN FAD

Italy is the birthplace of "gioco del lotto," the world's first lottery played in 1530 which evolved into Bingo in the United States, according to Reuters. The Italian government made bingo a legal game in expectation of prospering tax proceeds in 2000 and the first licensed bingo hall began operating in Treviso last year. High-tech bingo salons, enormous video screens flashing numbers at the speed of light and cash prizes are the latest trends for teens in Italy. After 10 PM, the bingo halls permeate with fashionable Italian teens turning the game into one of the hottest spots in town. Approximately 800 bingo halls are expected to open across Italy over the next three years, contributing 23 percent of sales to the government.

## SMOKING LAWS IN ITALY

Italy has enacted a law banning smoking in public places, including bars and restaurants. Police in Italy have been carrying out spot checks and have issued fines up to \$250 to smokers. The fines are doubled if an offender smokes in the presence of a pregnant woman or a child. Restaurant and bar owners are also held responsible and face a \$3,000 fine if they fail to enforce the new law.



NOTE: NOT EXACTLY WACO, KENTUCKY :)



**Majolica Ceramics of  
Deruta**

**DERUTA** is a small town in the middle of Umbria, famous all over the world for its classical and modern ceramics. Its artistical tradition dates back to etruscan period. All products are hand-made and hand-painted (no decals). The ceramics are FDA-approved for food serving.

## ITALIAN LESSIONS – Dialect of Luigi

### Vowels/Vocali

**a = ah   e = a   i = e   o = oh   u = oo**  
(simple, but workable at this stage)

### Nouns/Il Nome:

Genders ... **masculine** - usually ends in "o" or "e",  
**feminine** usually ends in "a"

Dov' 'e? (Doh-VEH, Where is it?)  
l'automobile (lah ah-toh-moh-BEE-leh, the car)  
la carta (lah CAR-tah, the paper)  
la casa (lah CAH-sah, the house)  
la chiesa (lah k'YEH-sah the church)  
la banca (la BAHN-kah, the bank)  
il denaro (ell dee-NAH-roh, the money)  
il gabinetto (ell gah-bee-NEHT-toh, the toilet)  
a porta (la POR-tah, the door)  
la sedia (lah SEDH-yah, the chair)  
la stanza (lah STAHN-sah, the room)  
la tavola (lah tah-VOH-lah, the table)  
il telefono (ell teh-leh-FOH-noh, the telephone)  
la via (lah VEE-ah, the street)  
bianco (b'YAHN-koh, white)  
rosso (ROHS-soh, red)  
verde (VEHR-deh, green)

il cappotto (eel cap-POHT-toh, the coat)  
bello (BEHL-loh, nice)  
freddo (FREH-doh, cool)  
caldo (CAHL-doh, hot)  
Nonno (NOH-noh, Grandfather)  
Zia (ZEE-ah, Aunt)  
Zio (ZEE-oh, Uncle)  
Cugina (coo-JEE-nah)  
arrivederci (ah-ree-vah-DEHR-chee, goodbye)  
grazie (GRAHT-see, thank you)  
scusa (SCOO-sah, excuse me)  
Buon giorno (bohn JORH-noh, good morning)  
Buona notte (BOH-nah NOHT-teh, good night)

### Remember ....

**Italians also speak  
with their hands**

**Il "l'Urna di Destino" è la  
parte delle celebrazioni  
di Natale in molte  
famiglie italiane. Che lo  
è? (Un'urna reale  
contenendo i presenti)**

**The "Urn of Fate" is part  
of the Christmas  
celebrations in many  
Italian households.  
What is it? (An actual urn  
containing presents)**



**RENEW – JOIN ... at or before the CHRISTMAS GATHERING to be eligible for door prizes.  
Otherwise, dues are due January 1.**

IAA Newsletter 12-05 p. 5

**ITALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LOUISVILLE**

**Membership Application Form**

January \_\_\_\_\_ through December \_\_\_\_\_

- New Membership**
- Renewal Membership**
- Lifetime Membership**

DATE joining club \_\_\_\_\_

Recruited by \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial/Name	
Address	City	State	Zip
Home Phone #	Cell Phone #	Occupation	
Work Phone #	Fax Phone #	E-mail Address	
Birthplace and Origin of Heritage			Birth Date

**SPOUSE INFORMATION: (Fill out if spouse is also joining the club at this time.)**

Last Name	First Name	Maiden Name	
Work Phone #	Fax Phone #	E-mail Address	
Birthplace and Origin of Heritage	Occupation	Birth Date	

**TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:** All membership dues are renewable on January 1 of each year.

- ADULT**                 \$15 per year per person
- YOUTH**                Free—children up to age 17 with parent membership
- LIFETIME**            \$125 one time payment per person

**PLEASE LIST THE NAMES AND BIRTHDAYS OF ALL YOUTH MEMBERSHIPS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**AMOUNT ENCLOSED:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ May we include your membership information in the IAA directory?    Yes    No

**Please return completed form and dues to:** Make checks payable to the **ITALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION**  
Mary Perry, Treasurer  
7809 Windgate Drive  
Louisville, KY 40291

*Revised 11/29/05*