

# ITALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

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december, 2003

distribution: mary perry

kentuckiana

## *Il Messaggio dal Presidente:*

We came. We voted. We ate and socialized. We ate and socialized and ate some more. In a nutshell, this summarizes the IAA general elections meeting held on November 19, 2003 at Clifton's Pizza. I want to thank Bob Waters for serving as the Elections Committee Chairperson and organizing this year's elections. Thanks to Bob, the evening provided so many highlights, it is hard for me to know where to start. The first highlight of the evening was the turnout. Italians are known for loving their politics, so it should come as no surprise that the turnout was a near-capacity crowd in the large dining room at Clifton's. However, it is hard to know if the turnout was due to the opportunity to practice politics or the all-you-could-eat buffet, which was another highlight of the evening. I want to thank Mary Rose Mattei for making the menu arrangements for the meeting.

Another highlight of the evening was that the IAA members decided unanimously to elect the slate of board members presented (with no nominees from the floor), which is surely a vote of confidence for all of the quality work the board has done this past year. In a related highlight, the IAA members also decided unanimously to retain the same slate of executive officers from last year. Again, this is a vote of confidence for the leadership provided by the executive board members to IAA during the last year.

Finally, for me personally, the highlight of the evening was being reelected to the office of president for another year. I want to express my deepest appreciation to all of the IAA members for giving me another opportunity to serve this organization that is so dear to my heart. In addition to my campaign motto of "food at every event," I promise to serve this organization to the best of my ability. I can be reached by phone at 812.282.3938 or by E-mail at bcarducc@ius.edu. Or, better yet, let's talk at one of our many upcoming events.

In closing, I would like to add that during these turbulent times around the world, let us all pray for

peace and the safe return of those brave individuals who are risking their lives to protect our freedom.

Warmest Regards, Bernardo J. Carducci, President

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## DUES FOR 2004

Remember to pay your dues while at the IAA Christmas-Dinner gathering...\$12 per adult and \$1 per youth (17 and under)...or send your check to IAA Treasurer, Mary Perry at 4319 Saratoga Woods Drive; Louisville, KY 40299.

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## JUST CREATIONS - IAA FUNDRAISER:

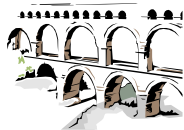
The IAA Fundraiser at JUST CREATIONS is **Thursday, December 11 from 6 pm until 8 pm**. The shop is located at 2722 Frankfort Ave. Get on your sleigh (with wheels) and "come on down" and do some of your Christmas shopping for unique gifts at great prices. IAA receives 15% of the sales sold during the 6 to 8 pm time period.

Entertainment will be provided by Off-Broadway, Pre-Hollywood entertainers. IAA youth and friends will be entertaining us with some music ....AND.... IAA gets 15% of the sales during this time period. Dress for the evening is holiday festive wear—sweatshirts, sweaters, etc.

We also need some light refreshments for the JUST CREATIONS event--homemade or "Kroger". Was it mentioned that IAA gets 15% of the sales for items sold between 6 pm and 8 pm?

Please tell all your co-workers and friends and neighbors to come support us in this project. Parking is available at the Library lot and along Frankfort and the side streets. Don't forget that IAA gets 15% of the sales during this time period (has that been said already?).

Please contact Mary Rose Mattei at 244-9339 if you can help with this fundraiser.



## *CHRISTMAS IN ITALY*

In Italy the Christmas season is a wonderful mixture of breathtaking sights, tantalizing smells, and captivating sounds.

**FEAST DAYS** are a prelude to the Christmas season in Italy. Each town and small village pay homage to their own patron saints. But there are two feast days celebrated throughout Italy. One is the feast day of St Nicholas of Bari (Dec. 6th) and the other is the Feast of Santa Lucia (St. Lucy) on Dec. 13th.

In the 4th century, St. Nicholas was the Archbishop of Myra, a town in Asia Minor. His remains are in **Bari**, Italy. A shrine was erected to honor him. On December 6, a festival is held in Bari every year and pilgrimages are made to this small town by thousands of people to visit his tomb.

In **Siracusa**, home of Santa Lucia, (St. Lucy) and they celebrate her feast day, December 13 for the miracle of food. This feast day is also shared with the people of Sweden for it is also known as the "Festival of Lights." St. Lucy is also known as the "Saint of Light," as it is said that St. Lucy was made blind on December 13 for her belief in Christianity. The "Manger scene" originated in Italy (in **Greccio**, 60 miles from Rome). The first manger was made by St. Francis of Assisi and today mangers are seen in churches, piazzas and many other places.

Another recognized tradition found in **Rome** and her surrounding areas is the annual appearance of the Zampognari and Pifferai shepherds (the Italian bagpipers and flute players). They are easy to recognize in their traditional colorful costumes of sheepskin vests, knee-high breeches, white stockings and long dark cloaks. Their melodies fill the air with the loveliest of sounds.

One of the most beautiful sights to behold is **Piazza Navona** at night during the holiday season. Thousands of people crowd into the piazza to view the large Nativity scene displayed there.

On the night before Epiphany (Jan. 5th), Piazza Navona is filled with last minutes shoppers looking to assist **La Befana** as children receive their gifts on Epiphany or "Little Christmas" January 6.

**Chieti** the "Fava Bean Festival" or **Agnona** (Molise) is a religious torchlight procession known as "La Fraccolare. **Tufillo**, a large bonfire, is set in the square which is symbolic of the fire that kept the Christ child warm. **Sorrento's** procession will carry lit candles and the crib holding the Baby Jesus. **Sicily** the "Yule Log" burns slowly over the Twelve Days of Christmas.

## *CHRISTMAS IN "The VILLE"*

### *IAA Family Christmas Dinner is*

Sunday, December 14, in the cafeteria at St. Joseph Children's Home from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. The IAA will provide pasta, meat, tossed salad, bread, coffee, and soft drinks. Members of the Association are asked to bring a casserole or vegetable (A – I), covered dish (J – Q), or dessert (R – Z). In addition to all of the wonderful food, this family friendly event will include plenty of time to socialize, play games, and sing Christmas carols. There will be a visit by Santa with gifts for the children. **Reservation Deadline:** call Bernardo Carducci at 282-3938 (email: bcarducc@ius.edu) by Thursday, December 11 with the number in your party. At the request of St. Joe's, this is a "no alcohol" event. The St. Joe kids and Board will be served at noon. Elves are needed at 11:30 am and at 5 pm to setup and clean up.

***BUON NATALE  
e ANNA NUOVO FELICE***