

Con't from p. 1 – ITALY Buon Natale

Amidst the general merrymaking and religious observance of December 24th, Christmas candles are lighted and a holiday feast is prepared. In some places, Christmas Eve dinner consists largely of fish. There may be as many as 10 to 20 fish dishes prepared. Often the fish is smothered in lentils.

Common throughout Italy are the Christmas sweets: *panettone* (cake filled with candied fruit), *torrone* (nougat) and *panforte* (gingerbread) made with hazelnuts, honey and almonds. All Christmas sweets, as a rule, contain nuts and almonds. Peasant folklore theorizes that to eat nuts favors the fertility of the earth and aids in the increase of flocks and family.

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. 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.....thanks to the 1930's ad campaign by Coca Cola.

I KNEW THAT !!!

SURVEY REVEALS THAT YOUNG ITALIANS LIKE THEIR FAMILY MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE

A recent survey carried out by the Italian Health Service on young people aged between 14 and 19 revealed that they value the importance of their family more than anything else. The survey also showed that they prefer a secure, but not very well paid job, rather than a risky one which pays better, and that friendliness is more important to them than beauty.



CHRISTMAS IDEA !!!

Donate the “**New International Webster’s Italian & English Dictionary**” to your local school, library or an in-school Italian club to help promote the Italian language! As part of the national **Adopt-A-School program**, buy this hardcover dictionary for well below the retail price of \$24.95 (Order Sons of Italy).



**BIRTHDAYS
DICEMBRE 2004
BUON COMPLEANNO !!**

Badaracco	Martha	12/18
Brignola	Sally	12/14
Camarata	Joseph	12/31
Cristo	Gesu	12/25
DeMarco	Paul	12/21
Gibbons	Gregory	12/14
Hambleton	James	12/3
Lubrano	Anthony	12/21
Marcellino	Charles	12/19
Mula	Joseph	12/22
Pusateri	Evelyn	12/23
Rothenburge r	Robert	12/18
Scattoloni	DonnaRose	12/24
Scorsolini	Bob	12/31
Stetson	Barbara	12/15
Welsh	Frances	12/1
White	Ron	12/9

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)grazie

Tiny Tim trims the tall tree with tinsel.....try saying that ten times after you've had an eggnog.

UPCOMING EVENTS....Mary Rose Mattei

Get out your family calendars and mark these dates!

DECEMBER

Just Creations & CHRISTMAS PARTY

Monday, December 6, 2004 is IAA's fundraising evening (6-8:00pm) at JUST CREATIONS – Louisville's International Crafts Market. IAA members are needed to greet customers and serve light refreshments....at 2722 Frankfort Ave (two doors to the right of Porcini's). IAA receives a percentage of the evening's sales for our charity work. Your HELP would be appreciated, and it's fun, too. For more information, call Mary Rose.

Sunday, December 12 - THIS IS IT.....the annual IAA Christmas Gathering. It's the most wonderful time of the year.....FOOD – FRIENDS – CHARITY – 2005 MEMBERSHIP SIGN-UP – SANTA - ENTERTAINMENT – GAMES, CAROLING, ETC.

Held in the St. Joseph Children's Home – Café at 2823 Frankfort Ave from Noon to 4pm. The food as always anchors the event and treats the palate. Chef, entrepreneur, and IAA member Bob Waters of the **BLACK OLIVE** will prepare a seasoned chicken dish with pasta, a tossed salad, and garlic-butter bread, and a meatless pasta dish for our vegetarians. Also, **IAA** will provide sodas and ice and coffee (alcohol not permitted). The **IAA membership** should bring an Italian-style dish that would serve 12 or more based on the 1st letter of your last name, thus;

- A – FDessert
- G – LCold Casserole or Fruit Dish
- M – RVegetable Tray
- S – ZHot Casserole

TIME....dinner bell rings at 12 noon for the St. Joseph children/caretakers followed 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.

RSVP....to Bernie Carducci at 812-282-3938 or by email: bcarducc@ius.edu by Thursday, Dec. 9 with your name, number in your party, and the dish you plan to bring. **Cost:** IAA Members – 0; non-members -\$5/adult and \$3/child.

2005 MEMBERSHIPconvenient time to pay your 2005 dues (Membership form – last page)

TRIESTE CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF REUNIFICATION WITH ITALY

On October 26th **1954** the city of Trieste was reunified to Italy following 9 years of military occupation by both the Allied Forces and Yugoslavia which started at the end of the Second World War. The city of Trieste conducted a series of events to celebrate this 50th anniversary which ended with a parade made up of all the military units which entered the city that year. The mayor of Trieste, told reporters that "the older generations remember that day in 1954 very well." At last Italian military units paraded along the streets of our town: Trieste belonged to Italy again after so many years of foreign military occupation. It has been hard to cope with this historical fact but today, many years after, people in Trieste are free to determine their own future".

To get rid of a wart, apply honey three (3) times a day until it's gone.

SCHOOL REFORM IN ITALY

PROTEST MARCH AGAINST SCHOOL REFORM
More than 100,000 teachers and students protested recently in Rome against the new educational reform. Although the Ministry of Education has earmarked 8 billion euros for reforming the school system within the next 5 years, only 90 million euros have been allocated for 2004 and 110 million for 2005. Teachers reckon that at this rate it will take 55 years instead of 5 to finance the reform.

THANKSGIVING DAY MOVED

Thanksgiving has traditionally been the start of the Christmas season in the U.S. Which U.S. President moved Thanksgiving back a week to extend the holiday shopping season?
-- Franklin Delano Roosevelt, in a move to help out Depression-strained retailers. Since 1859 Thanksgiving had been celebrated on Nov. 30, but in 1939 FDR declared the holiday to be the fourth Thursday in November (Nov. 23 of that year). Two years later, FDR signed a bill making the move permanent and official.

ANNUAL EVENTS IN ITALY

ART IN ICE2-4 December 2004 (Every year) The eighth international Art in Ice competition takes place in Livigno. Ten teams of three sculptors compete to transform pressed snow into works of art.....region of Lombardy; town of Sondrio; site at Livigno Resort.

FEAST OF SAINT LUCIA - Parade and dances in the square for two consecutive days with traditional Sardinian musicDec. 13, Sassari.

THE PRESEPIO (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 which gives Italy claim to the earliest known depiction of Christ's birth - incorporating New Testament iconography with the Babe laid in a manger visited by shepherds (Luke 2:7-19), and the wise men from the east (Matthew 2:2), while the attending ox and donkey are derived from the Old Testament Isaiah (1:3). However, the first true presepio was invented by Saint Francis of Assisi - to celebrate Christmas of 1223. Most of the Nativity Scenes offered by the communities are elaborate, life-sized creations (many are stunning to say the least) and a good number of them are ongoing theatrical events incorporating live people...entire Advent (40 days) in almost every village and city. Side note - some of us are planning to attend Southeast Christian Church for their theatrical event.

L'ASSOCIAZIONE ITALIANA CONTRO LE LEUCEMIE - sponsors an initiative in over 1700 piazzas in Italy where they kind of bother you selling these 'stars' (stelle) for about eight bucks apiece. Just so you know who they are and what they're doing, they're selling these things in order to promote the research and public education of Leukemia.....2nd weekend of December.

HISTORICAL COMMEMORATION of the original, nativity scene by St. Francis in 1223. This live nativity scene is held on the December 24, 26, and on January 6 (Epiphany).....GRECCIO, region of Lazio and Rieti province.

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”.

- [il Natale](#) — Christmas
- [Buon Natale](#) — Merry Christmas
- [il regalo di Natale](#) — Christmas present
- [la vigilia di Natale](#) — Christmas Eve
- [l'albero di Natale](#) — Christmas tree
- [il canto di Natale](#) — Christmas carol
- [il biglietto d'auguri](#) — Christmas card
- [il presepio](#) — nativity
- [Gesù Bambino](#) — the Christ Child or Infant Jesus
- [la festa di Santo Stefano](#) — Saint Stephen's Day
- [il Capodanno](#) — New Year's Day
- [gli auguri di Capodanno](#) — New Year's greeting
- [la Befana](#) — kindly old witch who brings children toys on Twelfth Night
- [la festa dell'Epifania](#) — Epiphany
- [i Re Magi](#) — the Magi, or the Three Kings or Wise Men

What did one angel say to the other angel?

Halo there!

**Italians also speak
with their hands**

**Chi ha
parcheggiato il
reindeer sul tetto?**

TRANSLATION

Who parked the
reindeer on the
roof?



COUNTRIES SIGN EUROPEAN CONSTITUTION IN ROME

The heads of State and Foreign Ministers of 29 European countries were in Rome recently to sign the new European constitution. The 25 countries that are already members of the EU signed the Treaty and the Final Act, whereas Turkey, Bulgaria, and Romania, candidates to join the EU, will only sign the Final Act. Croatia, who did not take part in the Convention, will act as an outside observer. The signing took place at Campidoglio, the seat of Rome's local government, where on March 25th 1957 Italy, France, Germany, Belgium, Holland, and Luxemburg founded The European Economic Community with the Treaty of Rome.

DUCCIO PAINTING PURCHASED - \$45 MILLION

The Metropolitan Museum of Art has concluded a deal to purchase a work by 14th-century artist Duccio di Buoninsegna for at least **\$45 million**, an amount greater than the museum has paid for any other single work of art. "**Madonna and Child**" is an 8-by-11 inch work painted in tempera and gold on a wood panel, and is the first Duccio purchased by the Met.

Duccio di Buoninsegna (c. 1255-1319) Although as a young man Duccio probably worked in Assisi, he spent virtually his entire life in Siena. Today nine or ten works definitely by Duccio's hand are known. They are: the [Crevoli Madonna](#) (1280), the [Madonna of the Franciscans](#) (1300), **Madonna** in the Galleria Nazionale of Perugia, the [Maestà](#) (1308-1311), the [Rucellai Madonna](#) (1285), a **Madonna** in a private collection in Brussels, two altarpieces in the Pinacoteca Nazionale of Siena, [The Holy Virgin with the Christ Child and Four Saints](#) (1300); and two triptychs, one in the National Gallery in London, [The Holy Virgin and the Christ Child with St. Dominic and St. Aurea](#) (1300), and one in the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

What relation was the Christ Child to John the Baptist?
-- No closer than second cousin. Luke tells us John's mother Elizabeth was Mary's cousin

THE BRIDGE -- SICILY TO MAINLAND

Three consortiums, Astaldi, Impreglio, and Risalto will be tendering for the contract to build the bridge that is to connect Sicily to Italy's mainland. The consortiums have until the end of April 2005 to come up with their project. The managing director of "Stretto di Messina", the company in charge of supervising the construction of the bridge, said yesterday that he was "very pleased with the first Italian tender for contract to have ever put three of the biggest building firms in competition with each other". Bettors – Who will build their bridge first.....Italy or Metro Louisville? Contact your local "bookie" to place a bet.

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

The "Twelve Days of Christmas" was originally written to help Catholic children, in England, remember different articles of faith during the persecution by Protestant Monarchs. The "true love" represented God, and the gifts all different ideas:
The "Partridge in a pear tree" was Christ.
2 Turtle Doves = The Old and New Testaments
3 French Hens = Faith, Hope and Charity-- the Theological Virtues
4 Calling Birds = the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists
5 Golden Rings = The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch", which relays the history of man's fall from grace.
6 Geese A-laying = the six days of Creation
7 Swans A-swimming = the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments
8 Maids A-milking = the eight beatitudes
9 Ladies Dancing = the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit
10 Lords A-leaping = the ten commandments
11 Pipers Piping = the eleven faithful apostles
12 Drummers Drumming = the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed

EARTHQUAKE - NORTHERN ITALY

Last week an earthquake measuring 5.2 on the Richter scale was felt in most of Northern Italy. The earthquake's epicentre was under Lake Garda; estimated damages to buildings and houses is around 20 million euros. The earthquake lasted about 10 seconds and was followed by numerous aftershocks which were felt as far away as Turin and Genoa.

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS – WITH AN ITALIAN FLAIR

In Italy, the Christmas season is so anticipated that the religious celebration begins early in December and continues throughout the month. Gifts are sometimes exchanged on December 25, but some families wait until Epiphany (and Befana), a holiday celebrated on January 6, to formally exchange presents.

TRY ONE OR TWO OF THESE:

1. Create a handmade "presepe," or Nativity scene. This model of a manger is an important part of an Italian Christmas celebration, as the manger scene originated in Italy.
2. Meet in front of this Nativity scene every now and then to recite a prayer.
3. Build a "ceppo," the Italian version of the Christmas tree. Resembling a pyramid on which a manger scene may be placed on the bottom shelf and gifts or decorations on the other shelves.
4. Send your children out in your neighborhood to recite Christmas poems or sing Christmas carols.
5. Go to church as an important part of your Christmas celebration.
6. Participate in an elaborate Christmas Eve banquet, called the "pranzo della vigilia." This meal, which contains no meat, should consist of foods such as fish and seafood soup or stew, cannoli (an Italian pastry) and other treats.
7. Remember that on Christmas Eve your children should provide you with a letter written on decorative stationery with their promises to behave during the coming year (this ought to be interesting).
8. Prepare an elaborate Christmas Day meal for family and friends. Serve antipasti and pasta; top it off with "panettone," or Christmas cake, and espresso.
9. Serve wine and "spumante" (Italian sparkling wine) in honor of this special day. Play games with your guests.
10. Plan to exchange gifts with your children on Christmas Day (**save at least one wrapped gift for January 6 during the feast of Epiphany**).
11. Remember the legend of the holiday, which is that La Befana (or Epiphany) was sweeping her floor when the three wise men came to her door and asked her to accompany them to Bethlehem. She declined in order to finish her task, but later had an epiphany of what she had missed, and since then is said to wander from door to door looking for the Christ Child.
12. Expect La Befana to arrive at your house bearing gifts for your children, if they have behaved especially well. Understand that she could come in the form of a fairy, a witch or a crone.

TIP: Although there are typically no elaborate holiday decorations in Italy, you can expect to see the words "Buon Natale" displayed in shop windows, wishing people a good Christmas.

TIP: Some families in Italy have a Christmas tree, decorated as it would be in America

ITALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

Membership Application Form

January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005

- New Membership
 Renewal Membership
 Lifetime Membership

DATE joining club _____

Recruited by _____

Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial/Name	
Address	City	State	Zip
Home 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: Adult membership is \$12 per year. Youth membership is \$1 per year. All membership dues are renewable on January 1 of each year.

- ADULT \$12 per year for each person over the age of 18
 YOUTH \$1 per year for each child under the age of 18
 LIFETIME \$100 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/Membership
4319 Saratoga Woods Drive
Louisville, KY 40299

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