



ITALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

editor: lou perry Giugno (June) 2004 database: mary perry kentuckiana

Il Messaggio dal Presidente:

One of my goals as president has been to help increase the visibility of the IAA throughout the city and surrounding area. One of the ways I have tried to do that is by getting the organization involved in various community events. Such community involvement not only promotes the local visibility of the IAA but also shows others that we our active community citizens, something the Italians have always been known for in this area since the early 1870s. As evidence of this involvement and visibility, it did not take long for the IAA to make their presence known in this year's Frankfort Ave. Easter Parade (FAEP). In just our second appearance, the IAA contingent was the recipient of one of the several "Golden Bunny Ears" trophies awarded to those groups in the parade who most clearly represent the spirit of the FAEP. Although the trophy is only 6 inches in size, I was told by those associated with the award that it is given only to groups who are real "crowd pleasers" as judged by their the sense of enthusiasm, joyful spirit, playful attitude, and expression of genuine warmth to all of the thousands of individuals who lined the parade route. Well, when the judges put it like that, of course the IAA would win one of the awards—these are all characteristics of the Italian people. All we had to do was be ourselves. Given our strong showing this early, I look forward to more IAA members marching in the parade next year. Another excellent example of how the IAA is demonstrating a community presence is though its participation in the "First Annual Bob Valvano's Celeberty Bocce Tournament to benefit The V Foundation for Cancer Research and Kosair Children's Hospital," which is to be held on Monday, May 31

Con't on p. 6

XX

NEXT ACTIVITY

ARTIST RETREAT & HUBER's

Saturday, June 5 at high noon

(see p. 3 for more)

XX

ITALY..... Valle d'Aosta

Valle d'Aosta has the distinction of being Italy's smallest region; it's on the border with France and Switzerland. Countryside characterizes most of the land, with ski resorts that draw international visitors. Because Valle d'Aosta was once part of the French-speaking principality of Savoy, French is still commonly spoken in this region even today. Medieval castles and clusters of chapels known as "sacri monti" dot the foothills of the Alps just to the north. On a personal note, it is also where I first entered Italy – from Switzerland – thru the Gran St. Bernard Tunnel and proclaimed "Wow, I'm in Italy, I really am, fantastic". As we traveled the region on our way to Milano and the "Last Supper", we saw some of the most breathtaking scenery of the Alps and the valley areas; and met some of the nicest people you'd ever want to meet (of course it was nice that my parents spoke Italian).

Landscape: In the smallest region of Italy there are the tallest mountains of Europe ... typical of the tall mountains are narrow and rocky throats, tall points, snow and perennial glaciers, colored lawns, pastures, woods, small villages, typical houses, luxurious hotels and roads with steep inclinations.

Population: The population is mainly in the valley bottom and along the course of Dora Baltea. Around a third alive in the city of Aosta, the rest in small countries and suburbs around the city. The greatest part of the inhabitants speak a French dialect, the frank-Provenzal patois and the bilingualism has recognized officially, also in the public and administrative actions. The schools have the obligation to teach the French language.

Con't on p. 5

**JOSE SAY PINATA,
LUIGI SAY PIGNATTA**

Kids, birthdays, and a piñata putting kids in a demolition mode cranked up by a major sugar surge is the formula for a wild time that requires close supervision.

In Mexico, the piñata has become so deeply rooted that many people today wrongly believe it to be its place of origin. Most of the experts agree that it is of Italian origin. In the 16th century, during the Italian Renaissance, the Italians played a game where blindfolded players swung a stick at a decorated clay pot called the **pignatta**. In fact, the Italian word pignatta means *fragile pot*. Originally, they were fashioned without a base and resembled clay containers for carrying water. It is believed that this is the origin of the traditional pineapple shape. The Italian **pignatta** was filled with trinkets, candies, and sometimes jewelry. **Pignatta** use in Italy is still found during festivals or *carnivale*. This fun activity quickly spread across Europe and took a foothold in Spain.

Once the **pignatta** is broken, evil was defeated and all share in the rewards. The important meaning of breaking the pignatta (piñata) is the destruction of evil forces and thus the victory of good conquering evil.

WASHINGTON, DC – FESTA ITALIANA - June 6th downtown Washington DC comes to life for the city's sixth annual Italian street festival.

Feast: Feast of St. Anthony
Sunday, June 13, 2004

Proverbio/Proverb
Quando a Roma vai, fa come vedrai

English Equivalent
When in Rome, do as the Romans do.



BIRTHDAYS – Giugno (June) 2004
BUON COMPLEANNO !!

Pinocchio 5 – 25 (1883)

- Brackett, Jules** 6 – 3
- Bukowski, Marie** 6 – 17
- Pulzone, Katherine** 6 – 11
- Smith, Elena** 6 – 13
- Spooner, Judith** 6 - 3

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)

FESTA ITALIANA
..... IS ON TARGET

FESTA ITALIANA planning is petal to the metal. FESTA Chair, Bernie, has coordinated, negotiated, bargained, and horse-traded to keep the FESTA moving in the right direction. The IAA Board is very excited about the efforts and energies going into the planning for this September 10 – 11.

Several areas of activity include management and promotion, finances and volunteers, entertainment and food vendors, ticket sales and security, and posters and fund raisers.

A "fact-finding, pleasure trip to **NEWPORT Italian festival** is being considered for June 12 or 13....call Bernie for details.

UPCOMING EVENTS....Mary Rose Mattei

Get out your family calendars and mark these dates!

JUNE

ARTIST RETREAT & HUBER'S

IAA will be visiting the southern Indiana Mount Saint Francis **artist retreat** of the very talented Italian Sculptor, Guy Tedesco, and then eat at **Huber's**. We will enjoy hearing from a working artist who has roots in Louisville and art pieces all over the USA. His statue of Thomas Jefferson is in downtown Jeffersonville, Indiana. Everyone will meet at high-noon on Saturday, June 5 at the Mt. Saint Francis studio. **DIRECTIONS:** From Louisville, take I-64 West across the S-M Bridge, go north on Route 150, go thru 1 signal lite and 1 flashing lite and at the next signal lite turn LEFT onto the beautiful grounds of Mount St. Francis, go to the back of the Mary Anderson Center's parking lot, near a gray concrete building. Park there and come to the old barn...wear comphy shoes, barn is not air conditioned, but restrooms are clean.

JULY

Family Picnic and Cookout

Sunday, July 25, we will have our **annual cookout** at Saint Joseph for our members and the resident children and staff. It is a nice Sunday family activity. Plan to join us.

AUGUST

St. Joseph Picnic – IAA Booth

Saturday, August 14th.....all members are needed in the IAA booth at the annual **Saint Joseph Home Summer PICNIC**. Come lend a hand to help our group. Bring your own chair! On Friday evening, the 13th, the home has a new, smaller, FREE gathering with music and a bit of gambling and more picnic food....call Mary Rose.

SEPTEMBER

FESTA ITALIANA - Louisville

September 10 - 11 on EDENSIDE DRIVE next to ST. JAMES CHURCH on Bardstown Road.....FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, for our **Italian Festival**. We will share our Heritage with all of METRO Louisville. Check with Bernie if you can help with this special weekend event. More details in the weeks ahead. This will be our biggest event of the year!

OCTOBER

Columbus Day Dinner / Awards

Monday, October 11 - Third annual IAA **Columbus Day Dinner-Awards** at the Knights of Columbus Hall on River Road. The beautiful view of the Ohio River, larger space and delicious menu will make this a nite to remember. Details to follow. Contact Lou Perry.

Italian Americans + *The Sopranos* = FICTION

Italian Americans + Crime Fighters = FACT

Al Capone had a brother who changed his name to Richard Hart and was a famous lawman.

"It is most regrettable that the impressive record Italian Americans have as crime-fighters has been overshadowed by the likes of fictional Italian American gangsters like Tony Soprano," says Albert DeNapoli, CSJ national president.

The OSIA report tracks Italian American law enforcers at federal, state and local levels, working as police officers, detectives, criminal prosecutors, district attorneys, U.S. attorney generals and federal judges. Among those profiled:

- **Charlie Angelo Siringo**, a 19th century Pinkerton undercover detective
- **Charles Joseph Bonaparte**, founder of the FBI
- **John J. Sirica**, the Watergate trial judge
- **Frank Serpico**, who blew the whistle on police corruption
- **Nancy Jardini**, the IRS "top cop"

The OSIA report also reveals that:

***Four of every ten New York City police officers are of Italian descent.

***In 2003, ten Italian American police officers were killed in the line of duty.

***In the past 54 years, only 5% of the 477 criminals on the FBI's Most Wanted List have been Italian American.

***The U. S. Department of Justice estimates **less than .0025 or one-quarter of one percent** of today's estimated 26 million Italian Americans are involved in criminal activities.

ANNUAL EVENTS IN ITALY GIUGNO (June)

CORPUS DOMINI (or Corpus Christi in English) – National Holiday observed in all of Italy born in a little town called Bolsena in the year 1263 and by a priest who was afflicted with a religious condition called “Berengarianism” a Eucharistic miracle had occurred which dispelled the heresy of Berengarianism and also created a new feast to commemorate the Miracle. The bloodstained marble tiles are kept in Bolsena, in the church that was built in 1290 to house them, and the bloodstained robes in Orvieto.

CHERRY FESTIVAL in L'AQUILA these are very high-quality cherries that are exported all over the world.

REGATTA OF THE ANCIENT MARITIME REPUBLICS - since 1956 the cities of Amalfi, Genoa, Pisa and Venice participate in this regatta. The race is preceded by a spectacular parade and represents the characteristics, the historical events and the men and women of these four ancient maritime cities that prospered during the Middle Ages and spread culture throughout the Mediterranean. The event is a mixture of sporting passion and ancient rivalry dating back to when these cities fought each other for supremacy on the seas.

GARALAND - Verona --- Italy's answer to Disneyland opens to the public everyday from 9:30 AM until 6:30 PM. for day-long access to all of the rides in the park. The amusement park is large and clean with ample parking it is definitely worth a detour. There is also a Medieval Times restaurant in the area. Dinner is served without utensils (by wenches) while everyone eats and cheers the knights in full Armour that joust and swordfight throughout the evening.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF THE WELL - Fasano, Brindisi; Puglia - a historical commemoration of the victory of this town over an invasion by the Turks in 1678. The residents thank la Madonna for their victory due to her miraculous intervention. There are long, historically costumed parades that runs from neighboring towns Pozzo Guacito and Pezze di Greco to arrive at the sanctuary in Fasano where ceremonies take place.

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 and feminine

Genders of nouns - In Italian there are two genders:

masculine the masculine usually ends in “o” or “e”,

feminine usually ends in “a”.

Below you can see a list of common masculine and feminine nouns with their English equivalents:

Masculine Nouns

l'uomo = man
il bambino = male child
il dottore = doctor
l'ufficio = office
il lavoro = work
il toro = bull
il gatto = cat
il treno = train
lo zucchero = sugar

Feminine Nouns

la donna = woman
la bambina = female child
la dottoressa = woman doctor
la casa = house
la vacanza = vacation
la mucca = cow
la gatta = female cat
la macchina = car
l'aquila = eagle

Italians also speak with their hands.

Se l'intendono.

English translation:

They're in this together.



ITALY....Personality and Places

E=mc² = De Pretto Not Einstein

The equation $E=mc^2$, which has been forever linked to Einstein & his *Theory of Relativity* was not originally published by Einstein. According to a professor at the *University of Perugia* and a historian of mathematics, this famous equation was first published by **Olinto De Pretto**, who was an unknown industrialist from *Vicenza*, two years prior to Einstein's publishing of the equation.

No one will ever know if Einstein passed De Pretto's equation off as his own, but evidence does suggest he may have done just that. Einstein was well versed in Italian and even lived in Northern Italy for a brief time. He was very familiar with the work of many Italian scientists and enjoyed studying their beliefs and theories and he most likely was familiar with both of the magazines that published De Pretto's equation. With all that said, you can make your own conclusions, theories and hypotheses as to who really is the man that conjured the formula $E=mc^2$.

DID YOU KNOW

..... odd numbers are lucky in Italy – but that the number 17 is considered unlucky. Ever wonder why Alitalia does not have a 17th row on their airplanes!

ITALY'S TOP BEACHES

The Italian environmental group uses 128 parameters to comb 243 coastal spots of Italy's extensive 1,150 miles coastline in a yearly quality test, and again gave Southern Italy or the Mezzogiorno top marks. These 10 spots received a perfect five out of five "sails" rating:

Otranto (**Puglia**), Buoso (**Sardinia**), Cinque Terre (**Liguria**), Orosei (**Sardinia**), Pollica Acciaroli e Pioppi (**Campania**), Tropea (**Calabria**), Castiglione della Pescaia (**Tuscany**), Arbus (**Sardinia**) and Tremiti Islands (**Puglia**).

Con't from p. 1 - Valle d'Aosta

A small minority that is found in Valley of Gressoney speaks the German language and the inhabitants are called Wals.

Economics - Tourism, Agriculture, and Electricity: Placed in the peaks of Europe, Valley of Aosta is one of the *tourist zones* more cared and famous of Europe....good hotel management, great skiing stations with the modern fittings, and qualified personnel as teachers and alpine guides. Valley of Aosta assures the tourism almost all the year and therefore it guarantees over that to the places of employment also a huge income, to which the famous casino of St. Vincent also contributes.

The *crops* are only those characteristics of mountain - potatoes, rye, apples and pears, and forage for the breeding of cattle; therefore, the production of meat, butter, cheeses, and all the milk products.

The presence of a lot of water has developed the *hydroelectric* industry, which has produced in excess and is carried into Piedmont. Important are also the iron, chemical and mineral industries with the zone of Cogne and La Thuile where the iron is extracted for the production of special steels.

Shark Tale..... BOYCOTT

The soon to be released Steven Spielberg's animated children's movie – *Shark Tale* – is ruffling feathers on the issue of ethnic stereotyping. According to the producing company, DreamWorks, the movie is "a gangster comedy" that features sharks as mafia characters, who belong to the Five Families, a large syndicate, which includes killer whales, hammerheads, and Frankie, a white shark, who is a "a natural born killer". Nearly all have Italian last names. Initial efforts are underway to get them to drop the Italian names and some of the dialogue using terms like "fuhgettaboutit" and "capeesh".

This "Nemo meets Don Corleone" plot will now pass stereotypes on to yet another generation of impressionable children. It's also reported that a sequel to *Shark Tale* is already being planned. This follows the recent broadcasting of PBS's tasteless *The Medicis: Godfathers of the Renaissance*.

BOYCOTT PROTEST BOYCOTT PROTEST

con't - Il Messaggio dal Presidente:

2004 from 11:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the belvedere in downtown Louisville. IAA member Bob Scorsolini serves on the bocce tournament's board of directors and as the board's liaison with the IAA. IAA member "Luigi Perri" serves as the tournament's director of recruitment and training of the bocce court referees. Luigi and the IAA's Joe Mula and Jim Vito Flitt are the members of the tournament's bocce demonstration team. IAA members serving as bocce court referees are Mary Perry, Marie Bukowski, Katherine Pulzone, Nikki Bukowski, Michele Melillo Clem, Bob Scorsolini, Marty Hanka, Luigi Perri, Joe Mula, Jim Vito Flitt, and Bernardo Carducci. IAA member Bob Waters is the "official chef" of the tournament and will oversee the cooking of the Italian sausage sandwiches. You can help increase the IAA's presence at this event, as well as support a great cause, by bringing your family and friends to his free event. If you want more information about this event or how you can serve as a volunteer, please contact Bob Scorsolini by phone at 502.964.2499 or by E-mail at BScorsolini@aol.com.

Speaking of strong showings, as the principal planner of social activities for the IAA, Mary Rose Mattei has done a wonderful job of putting together a number of special activities for IAA members to enjoy this summer and the rest of the year. A recent example of her efforts was last month's "Night of the Italian Authors" held at the Home of the Innocents. This event featured two local and widely respected Italian authors. Dianne Aprile, an award winning writer, discussed some of her more recent books, including "Making a Heart for God: A Week Inside a Catholic Monastery" and "The Abbey of Gethsemani: Place of Peace and Paradox" and her Italian heritage. Donna Valtri Crane discussed her book titled "Italian Love Stories: A Kentuckian's Journal of Tuscany" and showed slides of her home in and travels through Tuscany. In addition to a wonder meal, the many member of the IAA who attended the event were able to ask the authors plenty of questions, as well as purchase copies of the books and have them signed by the authors. So if you were not one of the many IAA members who attended this event, you missed a very special evening.

If you did miss the event with the local Italian authors, do not despair, as you will have another unique opportunity to do so when the IAA visits the Mount Saint Francis studio of nationally recognized artist Guy Tedesco on Saturday, June 5, 2004 at noon. In addition to a personal tour of the studio by the artist himself, there will be a luncheon gathering at nearby Huber's Restaurant. More information about this, as well as a listing of all of the other IAA events for this summer and over the rest of the year, can be found in the "Upcoming Events" section of the newsletter.

In closing, let me say that I know that the summer will bring lots of demands on your time. However, I hope that you will make it a point to include the IAA events in your list of "things to do" this summer. Participating in the IAA events, as well as bringing your friends, Italian or not, with you to share in the fun is the best way to make sure that the IAA remains a vital and vibrant organization. Without the IAA, there is no one else to promote the energy that the Italian people have brought to this area for almost 150 years. It is in this spirit that I look forward to seeing all of you this summer.

Warmest regards,

Bernardo J. Carducci, President