

# ITALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

VISIT – [www.LouisvilleItalians.com](http://www.LouisvilleItalians.com)

editor: lou perry    gennaio (january) 2007    membership: mary perry    kentuckiana

## NEXT SOCIAL ACTIVITY

**Boom and a Bozz Meeting – Wed. January 17**

(see p 3 for details)

**New or Renew Membership – see p. 6**

## *Il Messaggio dal Presidente:*

This message from me is my way of beginning a new and exciting year for the IAA. While the IAA continues to be a vital and exciting organization for Italian-Americans in this community, my New Year's resolution is to help make it even more important and visible in its presence. How do I propose to do that? My plan is relatively simple, but it will require that I get some feedback from you. At the personal level, **I would like some feedback about what events and activities, both social and civic, you would like to see sponsored by the IAA.** In your feedback, please be as specific as you possibly can by suggesting locations, time and day of the week, and nature of the event (e.g., speakers, entertainers, demonstrations), and, if possible the name of a contact person (e.g., name of a speaker, owner of a restaurant or gallery). The IAA Board of Directors welcomes your input, and will do all it can to implement your suggestions.

Without question, the most significant and visible event sponsored by the IAA is **FESTA ITALIANA**. While all the comments I receive from individuals who have attended the festival over the past three years have been overwhelming positive, I would like to make it even more successful. In an attempt to expand the quality of **FESTA**, the IAA must seek additional financial sponsorship from individuals, businesses, and organizations in the community. Again, here is where I need your help. Do you know of an individual, business, or organization that might be interested in being a sponsor of **FESTA ITALIANA**?

**Sponsorship** can vary from as little \$75 to have a name listed in the **FESTA** program to \$125 for a business-card size listing in program to \$250 for a yard sign posted at the festival to a \$1000 to be listed as a sponsor on the official **FESTA ITALIANA** poster. Sponsorship can also be made in memory of an individual or as part of a family recognition. When suggesting the name of a potential sponsor, please provide the name and contact information (e.g., title of business, address, and phone number and/or E-mail address) of the potential sponsor. Please help me spread the word about **sponsorship of FESTA ITALIANA**. Better yet, please consider becoming a sponsor yourself.

To make suggestions for IAA **monthly events** or provide information about potential festa sponsors, you can E-mail me at [bcarducc@ius.edu](mailto:bcarducc@ius.edu) <<mailto:bcarducc@ius.edu>> or write to me at 210 E. High Street, Jeffersonville, IN 47130.

As I stated before, my resolution is to make the IAA a better organization, but I cannot do it without your help. I hope to hear from you soon and see you at the next IAA event.

With warmest regards;  
Bernardo J. Carducci, President.

## BUON CAPODANNO



## HISTORY OF NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

The tradition of the New Year's Resolutions goes all the way back to 153 B.C. Janus, a mythical king of early Rome was placed at the head of the calendar. With two faces, Janus could look back on past events and forward to the future. Janus became the ancient symbol for resolutions and many Romans looked for forgiveness from their enemies and also exchanged gifts before the beginning of each year.

The New Year has not always begun on January 1, and it doesn't begin on that date everywhere today. It begins on that date only for cultures that use a 365-day solar calendar. January 1 became the beginning of the New Year in 46 B.C., when Julius Caesar developed a calendar that would more accurately reflect the seasons than previous calendars had.

The Romans named the first month of the year after Janus, the god of beginnings and the guardian of doors and entrances. He was always depicted with two faces, one on the front of his head and one on the back. Thus he could look backward and forward at the same time. At midnight on December 31, the Romans imagined Janus looking back at the old year and forward to the new. The Romans began giving one another branches from sacred trees for good fortune.

Con't on p.5

## ANNUAL EVENTS IN ITALY

**CAPODANNO** - New Year's Day....National Holiday observed in all of Italy.

**EPIPHANY** - and Befana – January 6 - An important Catholic holiday which celebrates the arrival of the three wise men bearing gifts for the newborn Jesus.....National Holiday observed in all of Italy.



**FARCHIA FESTIVAL** - Fara Filiorum Petri (Chieti, Abruzzo region); January 16; the residents make kindling into towering bundles that reach a height of 30 feet. They stand these stalks on end and then burn them like candles. All this is accompanied by ballad singers to celebrate Saint Antonio's Day. After the ceremonies the households welcome everyone inside with sweets, wines and spirits.

**FAIR OF SAINT ORSO** - an Irish monk who lived in the Aosta Valley in the sixth century. He was a very able carver who turned out quantities of wooden objects that he distributed to the poor. To this thousand-year-old fair, craftsmen bring articles carved of wood and delicate sculptures where the selling occurs only on January 31st. It attracts over 700 woodworkers and wood artists who cram the streets with their stalls as they demonstrate their mastery of their material for these two magical days.

**PEASANT WEDDING** - Castelrotto, Bolzano; third Sunday; following ancient Tyrolean customs, 20 or so sleds carry the brides and grooms to the church of San Valentino in the center of town (the whole town participates and everyone dresses in coordinated, authentic period garb). Then the entertainment begins and restaurants of the town offer special dishes which are inspired by the nuptial ceremonies and are prepared according to original recipes.

**SAINT ILARIO's DAY** (Saint Hilary) - Parma; January 13th; the town celebrates the festival of its patron saint (a Christianized Cinderella) with cookies baked in the shape of the shoe she lost while crossing the river to Parma.

**MANGER IN A CAVE** - Pescaglia, LUCCA; January 2 thru 6; - several years ago a speleology group created a very original and stunning nativity scene in a cave. The knee-high figures of Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, the Wise Men, shepherds, cattle, sheep and angels are positioned on the edge of the cave's natural 6 meter deep lake and stand among the stalagmites and stalactites. A generator provides lighting and music and volunteers sleep in a nearby tent during the time the scene is open to the public.

**SINGING OF THE BEGGARS** - Celebration of the Pasquella - January 6th; Montecarotto, Ancona, MARCHE; the townspeople divide themselves into groups, dress themselves as beggars and go door to door singing for donations. The festivities culminate with a grand feast in the piazza with singing and dancing.

**MOTORCYCLISTS EPIPHANY**, Milan; January 6th; motorbike clubs host a massive parade on the city's streets carrying an enormous witch (the Befana) that ends at the Piazza Duomo.

## BIRTHDAYS

January 2007

### BUON COMPLEANNO !!

Last Name	First Name	Birth-date
Clem	Michele	1/18
Palumbo	Paul	1/28
Parrella	Ray	1/10
Terry	Maria	1/20
Tomassetti	Al	1/19
Cordini	Franco	1/10
Spradlin	Vicki	1/28

**SING.....**

"Happy Birthday to You"

## PULZONE's CINEMA PIC

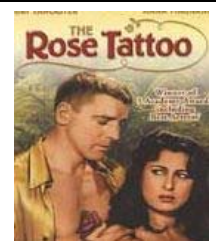
by Katherine Pulzone, IAA Board Member

### THE ROSE TATTOO

1955

Starring Anna Magnani, Burt Lancaster.  
Based on a play by Tennessee Williams.  
Anna Magnani won an Oscar for best actress for this portrayal; nominated for best picture, musical score, costume and film editing.

Anna Magnani plays Serafina, a young widow who's husband dies during WWII and she now lives in America. Lonely, Serafina withdraws from the rest of the world until a good hearted rambunctious (Lancaster) Alvaro, starts to romance her.



Sidebar: I'll leave the rest of the story for you to watch. Excellent.

## JANUARY

**1/1...1892** The Ellis Island Immigrant Station in New York opens.

**1/7...1789** The first U.S. presidential election is held. Americans vote for electors who, a month later, will choose George Washington to be the nation's first president

**1/16...1944** Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower takes command of the Allied invasion force in London

**1/20...1981** Iran releases 52 Americans held hostage for 444 days, minutes after the presidency has passed from Jimmy Carter to Ronald Reagan.

**1/29...1861** Kansas becomes the 34th state of the Union.

### CHE PASSA ?

(WHAT'S HAPPENING ?)

IAA to meet at **Tony Boombozz Pizza and Vino, Wednesday, January 17, 2007** - beginning at 6:30 p.m located at 2813 North Hurstbourne Parkway. We will be ordering off the menu. **RSVP deadline:** Tues. 1-16th to Bernie Carducci by phone at 282.3938 or E-mail at [bcarducc@ius.edu](mailto:bcarducc@ius.edu). See you there.

### World Record Cannoli



This past September at the Los Angeles San Gennaro Festa the Guinness World Record for the largest Cannoli was set. The Cannoli was over 6 feet long and weighed over 240 pounds! Made by Wheatland Baking in California the Cannoli was presented by Jimmy Kimmel and sponsored by Precious Cheese.

THANK YOU note from Emma at St. Joseph's



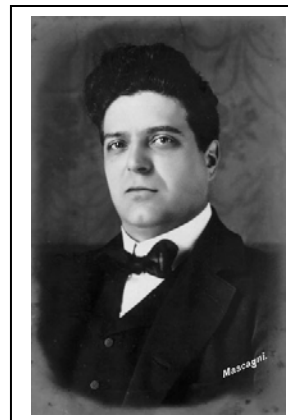
### BOLOGNA, Italy



Piazza Maggiore \* Neptune Fountain  
Basilica di San Petronio (rt)

### MASCAGNI: Cavalleria Rusticana

Pietro Mascagni (born: Livorno. Italy, Dec. 7, 1863), an Italian composer and conductor, is chiefly remembered in the first capacity as the composer of the one-act opera **Cavalleria Rusticana**. As a conductor he worked at La Scala in Milan. He died in Rome in 1945.



#### Operas

Mascagni won his first success with **Cavalleria Rusticana** (Rustic Chivalry), first staged in Rome in 1890. This is an example of verismo, operatic realism, that exercised considerable influence. The opera deals with a tale of love and jealousy in a Sicilian village, the drama ending in the death of Turiddu, the young Santuzza's faithless lover, whom she betrays to a man whom he has deceived. Of Mascagni's later operas **L'amico Fritz** and **Iris**, the latter set in Japan, won success and both have provided popular tenor arias.

He began to compose when very young. At the Milan Conservatory he studied with Amilcare Ponchielli (1834-86) and was Giacomo Puccini's roommate, but he was expelled. Taking conducting jobs with touring opera companies, he started writing operas and won a contest with his one-act **Cavalleria Rusticana** (1890); it was an instant success from its premiere, and it remains his best-known work. Mascagni wrote a total of fifteen operas, plus an operetta, several orchestral and vocal works, as well as songs and piano music. He enjoyed immense success during his lifetime.

## PRETZEL HISTORY

Pretzels date back to A.D. 610, when an Italian monk rewarded students by serving them baked scraps of leftover dough. He rolled and twisted the dough to resemble his students, who folded their arms across their chests when praying. The monks called their bread treats "pretiolas," Latin for "little rewards."



## UofL GRAWEMEYER AWARD GOES TO A TRIO OF ITALIAN SCIENTISTS

Researchers Giacomo Rizzolatti, Vittorio Gallese and Leonardo Fogassi, professors of human physiology at the University of Parma in Italy, have identified a "mirror neuron" system of brain cells in monkeys that also exists in humans. The system, which activates when we perceive similar behavior in others, may explain how we empathize and communicate and why we learn by seeing as well as doing. The finding could offer new insight into disorders such as autism, schizophrenia and Tourette's syndrome, all of which involve problems with imitation. Winners of the seventh Grawemeyer psychology prize, the trio was selected from among 30 nominations from five countries.

Awards founder Charles Grawemeyer, an industrialist, entrepreneur and UofL graduate, wanted to reward powerful ideas or works in the sciences, arts and humanities.

## ITALIAN – AMERICANS OF NOTE

- Fred De Luca**, founder of Subway Sandwich.
- Amedeo Obici**, founder of the Planters Peanut Company in 1906.
- Anthony T. Rossi**, (1900-1993), founded Tropicana Products, a producer of orange juice.
- Jay Sarno** (1922-1984) was the creator of the Caesars Palace hotel and the Circus Circus, and many credit him with being the father of today's more family-oriented Las Vegas.
- Amadeo P. Giannini**, founder in 1904 of Bank of Italy which later became Bank of America, the largest bank in the United States.
- Leonard Riggio** is owner of Barnes & Noble, the largest book retailer in the world.
- Hulk Hogan** born Terrance Eugenio Bollea
- Rick Pitino** (b. 1952), basketball coach.
- Rachael Ray**, chef/Emmy-winning television personality/author.
- Leo Politi** (1908–1996) wrote and illustrated some 20 children's books.
- John Romita**, illustrator of Marvel Comics.
- Tommy Tallarico** (b.1968), video game music composer.

## ITALIAN LESSIONS – Dialect of Luigi

### Vowels/Vocali

**a = ah e = a i = e o = oh u = oo**

**Nouns/Il Nome:** Genders ... **masculine** - "o" or "e", **feminine** usually ends in "a"

### PAST PARTICIPLE

#### NOTE

*Accented vowels are used to mark the accent (stress) in verbs of the 2nd conjugation, but remember that they are not used in common spelling*

Many verbs have a regular past participle, whose inflections are as follows:

**1st CONJUGATION:** infinitive ...**are**, past participle ....**ato**

**2nd CONJUGATION:** infinitive ...**ere**, past participle ....**uto**

**3rd CONJUGATION:** infinitive ...**ire**, past participle ....**ito**

**camminare** (to walk)      **camminato** (walked)

**mangiare** (to eat)      **mangiato** (eat)

**saltare** (to jump)      **saltato** (jumped)

**véndere** (to sell)      **venduto** (sold)

**sedére** (to sit)      **seduto** (sat)

**prèmere** (to press)      **premuto** (pressed)

**capire** (to understand)      **capito** (understood)

**sentire** (to hear)      **sentito** (heard)

**partire** (to leave)      **partito** (left)



Ducati 916

Remember .....

**Italians also speak  
with their hands**

**Potere tutte le  
difficoltà durante  
l'anno prossimo sono  
come brevi le vissute  
come sue risoluzioni  
Nuove Dell'anno."**

May all your troubles during the coming year be as short lived as your New Year's resolutions.



## CRUSADE BASICS

The medieval "Crusade" was a holy war. For a conflict to be officially considered a Crusade, it had to be sanctioned by the pope and conducted against groups seen as enemies of Christendom. **How the Crusades Began:** For centuries, Jerusalem had been governed by Muslims, but they tolerated Christian pilgrims because they helped the economy. Then, in the 1070s, **Turks** (who were also Muslim) conquered these holy lands and mistreated Christians before realizing how useful their good will (and money) could be. The Turks also threatened the Byzantine Empire. Emperor Alexius asked the pope for assistance, and Urban II, seeing a way to harness the violent energy of Christian knights, made a speech calling for them to take back Jerusalem. Thousands responded, resulting in the First Crusade.

**When the Crusades Began:** Urban II made his speech calling for Crusade at the Council of Clermont in November, 1095. This is seen as the start of the Crusades (1291 marks the end of the Crusades, but some historians extend them to 1798, when Napoleon expelled the Knights Hospitaller from Malta.

**Crusader Motivations:** There were as many different reasons for crusading as there were crusaders, but the single most common reason was piety. To crusade was to go on pilgrimage, a holy journey of personal salvation.

**The Number of Crusades:** Historians have numbered eight expeditions to the Holy Land, though some lump the 7th and 8th together for a total of seven crusades.....some crusades have been named, including the Albigenian Crusade, the Baltic (or Northern) Crusades, the Children's Crusade, and the People's Crusade. **Crusader Territory:** Upon the success of the First Crusade, the Europeans set up a king of Jerusalem and established what is known as the Crusader States; also called the Kingdom of Jerusalem.

When ambitious Venetian merchants convinced warriors of the Fourth Crusade to capture Constantinople in 1204, the resulting government was referred to as the Latin Empire, to distinguish it from the Greek, or Byzantine, empire they had claimed. **Crusading Orders:** Two important military orders were established in the early 12th century: the Knights Hospitaller and the Knights Templar. Both were monastic orders whose members took vows of chastity and poverty, yet they were also militarily trained. Their primary purpose was to protect and aid pilgrims to the Holy Land. **Impact of the Crusades:** Some historians -- particularly Crusades scholars -- consider the Crusades the single most important series of events in the Middle Ages. The Crusades contributed greatly to changes in Europe. The effort of raising armies and providing supplies for Crusaders stimulated the economy; trade benefited, as well, especially once the Crusader States were established. Interaction between the East and West affected European culture in areas of art and architecture, literature and education.

Con't from p.1 - Resolutions

Later, nuts or coins imprinted with the god Janus became more common New Year's gifts.

In the Middle Ages, Christians changed New Year's Day to December 25, the birth of Jesus. Then they changed it to March 25, a holiday called the Annunciation. In the sixteenth century, Pope Gregory XIII revised the Julian calendar, and the celebration of the New Year was returned to January 1.

The Julian and Gregorian calendars are solar calendars. Some cultures have lunar calendars, however. A year in a lunar calendar is less than 365 days because the months are based on the phases of the moon. The Chinese use a lunar calendar. Their new year begins at the time of the first full moon (over the Far East) after the sun enters Aquarius--sometime between January 19 and February 21. Although the date for New Year's Day is not the same in every culture, it is always a time for celebration and for customs to ensure good luck in the coming year.

The celebration of the New Year is the oldest of all holidays. It was first observed in ancient Babylon about 4000 years ago. In the years around 2000 BC, Babylonians celebrated the beginning of a new year on what is now March 23, although they themselves had no written calendar. Late March actually is a logical choice for the beginning of a new year. It is the time of year that spring begins and new crops are planted. January 1, on no astronomical nor agricultural significance. It is purely arbitrary. The Babylonian New Year celebration lasted for eleven days. Each day had its own particular mode of celebration, but it is safe to say that modern New Year's Eve festivities pale in comparison.

The Romans continued to observe the New Year on March 25, but their calendar was continually tampered with by various emperors so that the calendar soon became out of synchronization with the sun. In order to set the calendar right, the Roman senate, in 153 BC, declared January 1 to be the beginning of the New Year. But tampering continued until Julius Caesar, in 46 BC, established what has come to be known as the Julian Calendar. It again established January 1 as the New Year. But in order to synchronize the calendar with the sun, Caesar had to let the previous year drag on for 445 days.

## WHAT'S "IN" for ITALY - 2007

- \* Anyone who'll lower taxes in Italy.
- \* Hair jewelry - anything that sparkles in a ponytail or bun.
- \* The Italian national anthem.
- \* For the younger crowd - the fairies in the cartoon series Winx.
- \* Cheering for Soccer's World Cup champions - ITALIA.
- \* Eggplant as a color...on everything.
- \* A peaceful pope

**NEW & RENEW NOW WHILE YOU ARE THINKING ABOUT IT**  
**All dues are due January 1.....last notice before list is purged later this month.**

**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