

Italian American Association Newsletter

November 2003

Message from the President

As the IAA nears another year of operation, we have much for which to be proud. This was clearly demonstrated at the recent IAA Achievement Awards Dinner held last month at BRAVO! Cucina Italiana. The turnout was even larger than we had last year, which promoted Awards Committee Chairperson Lou Perry to comment that he is already looking for a larger space for next year's banquet. A common theme that was reflected in all of the comments made by the winners was just how proud they were to be members of the IAA. I have listed the names of all of the winners in the "Announcements" section of the newsletter.

Another reason we have to be proud of the IAA is the fact that we have extended the election meeting to include a buffet dinner at Clifton's Pizza because so many members said that they wanted more opportunity to socialize, in addition to voting at the election. This tells me that our members truly enjoy being with each other and are willing to take time out of their busy schedules to do so. But let's face it, being enthusiastic about socializing, politics, and food have always been characteristics of Italians. So, it comes as no surprise to me that our IAA members wanted to make such a change in our election meeting. Turning out to vote in the IAA elections is one of the most significant ways to show your pride and support of our organization. So, I hope all of you will make it a point to attend Dinner/Election Meeting on Wednesday, November 19th at Clifton's Pizza.

Finally, on a more personal note, I have been proud to serve as the editor of the IAA Newsletter for the past few years, and I am even more proud to announce that starting next month, the duties of being co-editors of the newsletter will be assumed by Lou and Mary Perry. Please extend your congratulations to and support of them.

Best regards,

Bernardo J. Carducci, President

Upcoming Events

General Meeting and IAA Dinner/Elections at Clifton's Pizza: Wednesday, November 19, 2003

In an effort to keep my presidential campaign promise of having food at each of our meetings, the next General Meeting of the IAA will be a combination dinner/elections meeting. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 19, 2003 at Clifton's Pizza on Frankfort Avenue beginning at 6:30 p.m. There will be an all-you-can-eat buffet Italian dinner that will include stuffed mushrooms, tossed salad, assorted pizzas, chicken tetrazini, and bread. The entire cost of the dinner is only \$9.00, which includes tax and tip. To ensure that Clifton's prepares enough food for all of those who will be attending, we need to have a headcount prior to the event. To make your reservation for this event, please contact Mary Rose Mattei at 244-9339 by Sunday, November 16, 2003 and indicate the number of individuals who will be attending with you.

IAA Fundraiser at Just Creations: Thursday, December 11, 2003

The IAA will be participating in "Holiday Shopping Night" at Just Creations, a specialty store selling reasonably priced imported handcrafted items from developing countries all over the world. On Thursday, December 11, 2003 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., members of the IAA will be serving as "guest salesclerks," which means the IAA will receive 15 percent of the total gross sales achieved during those two hours--the more you spend, the more the IAA makes! So, do some seasonal shopping, help the economies of developing countries, and support the IAA by joining the fun at Just Creations, which is located at 2722 Frankfort Avenue (just north of St. Joe's going towards downtown). There is free parking available on Frankfort Avenue. For more information about this event, contact Mary Rose Mattei at 244-9339.

IAA Family Christmas Dinner: Sunday, December 14, 2003

It has been a holiday tradition for the IAA to sponsor a Christmas dinner for the children of St. Joseph Children's Home in conjunction with our December monthly gathering. The Annual IAA Christmas Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 14, 2003 in the cafeteria at St. Joseph Children's Home at 2823 Frankfort Ave. from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. The IAA will provide pasta, meat, tossed salad, and bread, all of which will be prepared by Bob Waters, and coffee and soft drinks. Members of the Associations are asked to bring a casserole, covered dish, or dessert. In addition to all of the wonderful food, this family friendly event will include plenty of time to socialize, games, the singing of Christmas carols, and a visit by Santa with gifts for the children.

Reservation Deadline: If you and your family members plan to attend, please contact Bernardo Carducci by phone: 282.3938 or by E-mail: bcarducc@ius.edu by Thursday, December 11, 2003 to let him know. We need a headcount to ensure that we prepare enough food.

Cost: There is no cost for this event for members of the IAA and their immediate family.

Here is what you should bring: To help guarantee that we have a variety of foods, we are asking that you bring the following food items based on the first initial of your last name according to the following groupings:

A – I: COVERED CASSEROLE DISH OR VEGETABLE

J – Q: COLD CASSEROLE DISH (no tossed green salad, since this will be provide)

R – Z: DESSERT

Important reminder: Since Italians are known for their hearty appetites, it is important that the food item you bring be enough to serve 6 to 8 more people than the number of people who will be attending with you. Also, for liability purposes, the management of St. Joe's requests that no alcoholic beverages are to be brought on to the premises. We have agreed to honor this request.

Announcements

2003 IAA Achievement Awards Winners

In what was an overflow-capacity event at the BRAVO! Cucina Italiana banquet room, the following individuals received awards at the 2nd Annual IAA Achievement Awards program: The Christopher Columbus Perpetual Leadership Award to Albert Tomassetti; The Dominic Mattei Award for Loyalty and Service to Paul Castagno; The Joe Melillio Spirt Award (posthumously) to Henry Bukowski; The Volunteer of the Year Award (non-board member) to Tony Galofaro; The Excellence in Education Award (youth award) to Nicole Bukowski and Jessica Mula; The Outstanding Achievement in Writing (youth award) to Zack Patton. Zack's award-winning essay appears at the end of the Announcements. Please extend your congratulations to all of these individuals for their much-deserved awards.

IAA Elections Committee Seeks Individuals for Positions on the Board

As part of its duties, the IAA Elections Committee is seeking nominations for the executive offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Program Director. We are also seeking nominations for 3 vacant seats on the Board of Directors. The executive officers are elected for one-year positions while the seats on the board of directors are for two-year positions.

The time commitment for the officers and members of the board of directors is minimal. The officers and board members meet once a month, usually at St. Joseph's, for about 90 minutes. Being an executive officer or member of the board of directors is an outstanding way to make sure our Italian heritage is maintained in the community. If anyone has any questions about the duties and activities of executive officers and board members, please feel free to contact Bernardo Carducci at 282.3938.

Anyone who wishes to be considered for an executive office position or a seat on the board of directors should contact Bob Waters, the IAA Elections Coordinator, at 425.1082 or E-mail: bwaters@humana.com by the nomination deadline of Monday, November 18, 2001.

Volunteers Needed at Christmas Dinner: December 14, 2003

The Christmas Dinner Committee is seeking individuals to help with the preparation and setup of the IAA Christmas Dinner. Volunteers are needed to work anytime from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and with cleanup after the event from 4:00-5:00 p.m. Individuals volunteering from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. will also be assisting the IAA with the dinner it serves to the St. Joe's Board of Directors as part of their Christmas activities with the children of St. Joe's. We offer our services out of gratitude for St. Joe's allowing us to use their facilities throughout the year at no cost. So, if you are able to volunteer and help the IAA out with its most significant event of the year, please contact Bob Waters, the Christmas Dinner Coordinator, at 425.1082 or E-mail: bwaters@humana.com

Festival Committee Chairperson Needed

The IAA is seeking a member from the organization to serve as the Chairperson of the IAA Festival Committee. The principal responsibility of this position will be to serve as the IAA representative to work with the professional events organizational company the IAA has entered an agreement with to organize and promote next year's festival. The chairperson will also work with other members of the IAA Festival Committee to help implement the IAA's responsibilities in the agreement (e.g., secure volunteers). If you would like more information about this important position, please contact Bernie Carducci by phone at 812.282.3938 or E-mail at bcarducc@ius.edu.

Your Expressions of Sympathy Requested

Bernice Mattei recently had cataract surgery on one eye and has plans to have surgery on the other one in late November. Her recovery is going well. We all hope and pray that Bernice's next surgery and recovery continue to in a satisfactory manner.

Iginia Davit, the mother of Petro Davit, recently passed away as a result of a massive stroke. All the member of the IAA offer their prayers and condolences to Petro and his family.

Birthdays Wishes: Presented below is a list of the IAA members who are celebrating a birthday in the months of October and November. Please join me in wishing them a HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

October 2nd Paul Castagno; 5th Alice Bernola; 9th Louis Mattei; 18th Lou DeVuono & Charlene Verdi; 20th Angela Ochsner; 21st Onofria Cebe & Cynthia Norton; 27th Jessie Napier; 30th Paul Lenzi; November 2nd Romano Mazzoli & Joe Renzi; 5th Rick Moir; 8th Richard Mancini; 10th Elvira Kettler; 19th Tony Moir; 20th Liliana Mazzoli; 21st John Sangalli; 24th John Vaughan; 27th Joe Altobellis

Pamela Mattei featured at Local Art Reception: Pamela Mattei, daughter of Mary Rose and Louie Mattei, had her first art show, featuring her dyed silk scarves, along with a select group of other artists, at the Clarion Hurstbourne Hotel.

Items of Italian Cultural, Submitted by Lou Perry, IAA Board Member and Treasurer

Book Review of “Bread and Respect: The Italians of Louisiana: Are you looking for a Christmas gift or a good book yourself? If so, I’d like to recommend Bread and Respect: The Italians of Louisiana. Each of the eight chapters, according to the review by OSIA, is a well-documented history that tackles one yearning, hunger or hope that the immigrants felt as they struggled in the new world and explains the historical and social circumstances connected to those feelings.

Historical Background regarding the Abandoned Infant Surnames: Several of us are familiar with some of the common surnames bestowed on abandoned Italian infants during the 18th and 19th centuries—Esposito, D’Amato, Fiore, or Belfiore, etc. Also, Cuius was given to children born out of wedlock (Cuius means “of whom” or “whose.”). By the 1820’s the practice was outlawed to remove the stigma of these surnames on the child and any descendants.

Interesting Reading on Columbus: If you are looking for some interesting reading on Columbus, whether it’s to help your child or grandchild with a school report or provide yourself with some thought-provoking material, I highly recommend visiting the following web site: http://www.osia.org/public/pdf/columbus_report.pdf.

IAA Award Winning Article: “Italy has Much to Offer,” by Zack Patton, Winner of the 2003 IAA Outstanding Achievement in Writing

Italy has so much to offer us, from fine wines and incredible foods to amazing art and great historical sites. Italy is known for its vineyards and olive groves, and villages connected by narrow, winding roads. The country will almost embrace you in the friendliness of the people you meet. I have personally experienced this friendliness when on my trip to Italy to see family. We were all warmly welcomed and we hugged everyone, even though I really didn't even know them yet!

Some of Italy's trademark foods include many fancy pastas, fresh seafood, anything made with tomatoes, and wood - oven pizzas -- at local restaurants and in people's homes. While the food industry has changed what and how people eat around the world, Italian cooking has still retained much of the traditions of fresh ingredients and preparations. I have seen this first - hand from my Italian grandma's cooking - from what she has said and from watching her prepare food. She has always used fresh and not packaged or processed foods. I've never been let down by her meals!

In Italy, conversation is kind of an art form in itself. All you have to do is walk along the open outdoor cafes in nearly any Italian town and you'll see groups of people engaged in intense conversation. This is also quite common in Italian homes. My grandma and my mom always get into Italian conversation that I can never understand. Along with food and wine, of course, topics that are discussed include sports, especially futbol (soccer). Italians are extremely supportive of their favorite teams. My Italian cousin plays for Team Florence and his name is known