



# ITALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

editor: lou perry    novembre 2004    database: mary perry    kentuckiana

## *Il Messaggio dal Presidente:*

In addition to being known for their food, art, music, sense of fashion style, and love of people, the Italians are also known for their passion for politics. This month, as we do every November, the IAA is having its election meeting on Wednesday, November 17, 2004 at Clifton's Pizza, starting at 6:30 p.m. At this meeting, we will be taking nominations for members of the board of directors and electing board members and executive officers. Because of the great food and the excitement of the elections, the IAA election meeting is one of our most popular events—typically drawing a capacity crowd in the large dining room at Clifton's Pizza.

Serving on the board of directors is one of the most important ways members of the IAA can make sure that our organization remains a vital vehicle for promoting the Italian heritage in this area. Although an important position, membership on the IAA Board of Directors requires surprising little time. Members are expected to attend a board meeting typically on the third Wednesday of the month, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meetings usually last no more than only an hour and half. I encourage any IAA member who is interested in getting more involved in the organization by becoming a board member to contact me by phone at 282.3938 or E-mail at bcarducc@ius.edu for more information prior to the election meeting.

For those IAA members who are not yet ready to make the commitment to becoming a board member, attending the election meeting to cast your vote for those who are is also a critical way to show your active involvement in the IAA. So, I hope to see all of you at the IAA election meeting for some fantastic food, fun fellowship, and good old fashion Italian politics. Come early to make sure you get your seat to eat and cast your vote.

Warmest regards,  
Bernardo J. Carducci, President

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### **NEXT ACTIVITY**

**November 6 – Day AT THE RACES**  
**November 17 – IAA ELECTIONS-DINNER**  
(see p.3 for details)

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### **"SEXY" ITALY**

Europe's sexy over-the-knee boot has it all: popes, painters, polenta, paramours, poets, political puerility and potentates. Its dreamy light and sumptuous landscapes seem made for romance, and its three millennia of history, culture and cuisine seduces just about everyone; and the country is no bigger than the state of Nevada.

You can visit Roman ruins, gawk at Renaissance art, stay in tiny medieval hill towns, go skiing in the Alps, explore the canals of Venice and gaze at beautiful churches. Naturally you can also indulge in the pleasures of *la dolce vita*: good food, good wine and improving your wardrobe.

From the wonders of Palermo in Sicily to the majestic peaks of the Dolomites, Italy is a movable feast of endless courses. No matter how much you gorge yourself on its splendors, you always feel you haven't made it past the antipasti. Few countries offer such variety and few visitors leave without a fervent desire to return. Italy - *Il Belpaese*, the Beautiful Country.

### **ITALIAN WINS WORLD MOTORCYCLE CHAMPIONSHIP**

Valentino Rossi won the motorcycle racing Grand Prix recently - he is the 2004 world champion. Rossi, on Yamaha, has won 8 Grand Prix races this year (67 in his career so far), and is the only motorcycle racer to have ever won 4 world championships in 4 different categories ( 125 cc, 250cc, 500cc, and Moto Gp ).

## ITALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS – 2004

What a wonderful evening of fellowship, food, and awards. The members of the Association took an evening from its service function to relax and recognize various members in different award categories. Additionally, we extended an appreciation to the awards' sponsors.....Frank Mascangni, III and family; Marie and Mike Azzara; and MELILLO'S restaurant. Our "Master of Ceremonies" – Bernie Carducci - led us through an evening of excitement and suspense.

### CONGRATULAZIONE – BRAVO – SALUTI

***Christopher Columbus Perpetual Leadership Award***

Lou Perry

***Replica – Leadership Award (last year's recipient)***

Al Tomassetti

***Dominic Mattei Award for Loyalty and Service***

Ann Moir

***Joe Melillo Spirit Award***

Mary Rose Mattei

***Volunteer of the Year Award (non-Board member)***

Jules Brackett

***Outstanding Achievement in Writing***

Christina Dages

The awards for *Athlete of the Year* and for *Excellence in Education* had no nominees, and, therefore, will be carry-forwarded into next year. The Awards Committee feels assured that we do have some deserving youth out there who match up to the awards. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, IAA awarded youth: an Awards Scholarship - \$100, plaque, and a \$25 gift certificate. The IAA also wishes to thank those who took the time and effort to nominate a candidate, and the Awards Committee of Marty and Marvin Hanka and Mary and Lou Perry for their efforts in selecting the best candidates for this year's awards. IAA would like to see more new members on the list and involved in the many service and social activities.

### HERE ROVER

Italy's Animal League reports for 2003 the number of animals in Italian homes to be around 45,5 million. Of these, 16 million are goldfish or tropical fish, 12 million are birds, 7,5 million are cats, 7 million are dogs, 1 million are turtles, forty thousand are iguanas or snakes, and roughly three thousand are felines or other wild animals.



## BIRTHDAYS – NOVEMBRE 2004 BUON COMPLEANNO !!

Altobellis	Joseph	11/27
Amenta	Conrad	11/11
Campisano	Janet	11/29
Dattaio	Giovanni	11/30
Grana	Daniel	11/6
Kettler	Elvira	11/10
Mancini	Richard	11/8
Mazzoli	Romano	11/2
Mazzoli	Liliana	11/20
Moir	Rick	11/5
Moir, Sr.	Antonio	11/19
Napolitano	Margaret	11/24
Nethery	Mark	11/22
Pellegrini	Katherine	11/29
Pellegrini	Emily	11/25
Sangalli	John	11/21
Viola	Jennifer	11/24

### 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;  
if you see an omission, please  
contact us)

## VOTE

Tuesday, November 2

## UPCOMING EVENTS....Mary Rose Mattei

Get out your family calendars and mark these dates!

### NOVEMBER

#### Day At The Races and IAA ELECTIONS-DINNER

**November 6, Saturday.....IAA Day at the Races** – only 40 tickets will be ordered. Box lunch (turkey, ham, OR Caesar salad) is \$16 (includes a program). Enjoy Fall racing at Churchill Downs and walk down to the paddock to get that last “hot tip”. Order your tickets AND box lunch preference now. **A FEW TICKETS REMAIN** - Adults only....call Mary Perry at 263-5480.

**November 17, Wednesday; IAA Elections/Dinner** at Clifton’s Pizza at 2730 Frankfort Ave. Italian buffet...only \$9. Your help is needed on the Board and on various committees. Martha Stewart can’t participate, but you can.

### DECEMBER

#### Just Creations & CHRISTMAS PARTY

**Monday, December 6, 2004** is IAA’s money-making evening (6-8) at JUST CREATIONS.

**Sunday, December 12** (more information to follow) is IAA’s annual CHRISTMAS Gathering

## GRACE BEFORE MEALS

### Preghiera di ringraziamento prima dei pasti

Bless us Oh Lord,  
**Benedici noi, o Signore,**

for these thy gifts, which we are about to receive,  
**per questi doni che stiamo per ricevere,**

from thy bounty,  
**dalla tua bontà**

through Christ, Our Lord, Amen.  
**attraverso Gesù Cristo Nostro Signore, amen.**

To verify if a plant is poison ivy, take hold of the plant with a white piece of paper and crush the leaves.....the paper will turn **black** if it is.

## OPERA

**OPERA** is a drama in which the characters sing, rather than speak, all or most of their lines. Opera is one of the more complex of all art forms. It combines acting, singing, orchestral music, costumes, scenery, and often ballet or some other form of dance.

In telling a story, opera uses the enormous power of music to communicate feeling and to express emotions. Singers, accompanied by an orchestra, may bring a dramatic situation to life more vividly than actors with spoken dialogue. Vocal and orchestral music can also tell an audience much about a character and his or her state of mind.

Because music expresses emotions so forcefully, most opera composers base their works on highly emotional stories. An opera, more than a spoken play, is likely to emphasize passionate scenes of anger, cruelty, jealousy, joy, love, revenge, sadness, or triumph. Music can also add excitement to scenes portraying spectacle. Some of the most stirring music in opera accompanies colorful crowd scenes, such as a coronation or a military parade.

### THE ELEMENTS OF OPERA

An opera has two basic elements: (1) the libretto and (2) the music. The **libretto**, which means *little book* in Italian, consists of the words, or text, of an opera. The **music**, which is also called the *score*, consists of both vocal and instrumental music. To translate the libretto and music into a performance, an opera must have singers, a conductor, and an orchestra.

The most emotional parts of the libretto are solo numbers called **arias**. They usually express a character's feelings or thoughts and arias provide the most beautiful and dramatic music in many operas.

### HARDEST SCHOOL SUBJECT

An opinion poll carried out by Italy’s Ministry of Education on 1.5 million high school students revealed mathematics to be the hardest subject to learn. When asked which of the 3 subjects out of science, Italian literature, and math was the easiest to learn, 57% of those interviewed said science, 56% said Italian literature, and only 49% chose math.

## ANNUAL EVENTS IN ITALY

**TUTTI I SANTI** - All Saint's Day (which includes the 'Day of the Dead' (or 'Memorial Day'); National Holiday in Italy; November 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**ITALIAN JOB** - a charity fund-raising jaunt across Europe from Brighton (UK) through the Trentino region of northern Italy, down to the Liguria region of the Italian Riviera and back. Drivers (jobbers) "steal" wine (the booty) to bring back to England to be auctioned off. The events attracts over 2,000 drivers that drive more than 2,000 miles across some of the most spectacular scenery of Italy and Europe.....raising money for several important children's charities. Drivers must visit vineyards and cantinas on the way to collect bottles of wine, and the provisional itinerary includes a day at BMW in Munich, a special stage in San Remo on the Italian Riviera, a stop in Monte Carlo and a gala dinner and presentation of finishers awards in an impressive venue in the UK.....through November 4th: Lombardia Region.

**INTERNATIONAL HORSE SHOW - 106th** ; exhibition of equestrian activities and equipment. Horses, trainers, competitors and observers arrive from all corners of the world for this event. During the events, there are authentic period horse-drawn carriages which will taxi you from the city center to the grounds of the event and the house and balcony from below which Romeo supposedly serenaded Juliet. An event not to be missed under any circumstances by horse lovers. Verona - 11th through the 14th.

**WHITE TRUFFLE TASTINGS** - This city becomes the self-proclaimed White Truffle Capital of Italy for these two weekends. The programs for these days include organized tastings of Truffles, Truffle dishes, extra-virgin olive oils and locally produced wines. There are seminars, competitions between the Truffle-hunting hounds, and musical performances by well-known groups. All will learn a great deal about the elusive and poorly understood root, and will witness some of the most beautiful countryside that Italy has to offer!.....the first two full weekends of November; San Giovanni d'Asso, Province of Siena.

**FESTIVAL OF CAPO LEUCA WINES** - a legend claims that one of the most famous homemade wines of this area, the Primitivo, can resist aging for over a hundred years.....1st week, Ugento, Province of Lecce.

## 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".

### .THE ITALIAN MENU

1. Restaurants in Italy include the **autogrill**, or roadside snack bar, the **osteria**, an informal place, and the **trattoria**, which is a medium-priced, often family-run eating establishment.

2. In Italy, dishes are usually served on separate plates in a specific order. In order of appearance on a typical menu there is:

a. **L'antipasto**, which literally means "before the meal" and includes hot and cold appetizers such as *crostini*, *bruschetta*, and *mozzarella in carrozza*.

b. **Il primo**, or "first course" usually consisting of pasta, minestrone, risotto, or *zuppa* (soup).

c. **Il secondo**, or "second course," and is the main course - often meat, poultry, game, or fish.

d. **Il contorno**, or "side dish" which consists of vegetables such as *melanzane* (eggplant), *spinaci* (spinach), or *insalata mista*

(see MENU. p. 5)

### Italians also speak with their hands

**Vieni fra le mie  
braccia!**

English translation:  
**Come to me!**



## COMMUNICATION SKILLS ITALIAN STYLE

A psychosomatics monthly, "Riza Psicomatica", recently carried out a statistical survey on one thousand Italian adults aged between 25 and 60. What emerged from the survey, whose topic was "communicating", is that every day Italians spend:

- 52 minutes talking about soccer,
  - 37 talking about work,
  - 20 talking about sex,
  - 2 about politics, and
  - about 30 seconds talking about books.
- 
- 63% of those interviewed said they had serious problems communicating with their children,
  - 57% had the same problem with their colleagues at work, and
  - 46% admitted they had that problem with their lover, husband, or wife.

The hardest topics to talk about are love, death, pain, and hopes and ambitions.

## EU PASSPORTS TO CARRY FINGERPRINTS

By the end of 2006 all EU passports will have their owner's fingerprints inside them....."It is the duty of each European country to carry on with the battle against terrorism".

## ALITALIA BAILOUT – OUCH

Eight major European airline companies, including British Airways, Lufthansa, and Iberia, signed an official letter of protest against the Italian government's plan to save Alitalia from imminent bankruptcy. The "rescue plan" violates EU regulations on State intervention. It will impede EU aircraft consolidation, and it is an illegal blow to Alitalia's European competitors.

## 30 MILLION TONS OF ITALIAN .....

29,8 million tons of garbage were collected in Italy in 2002 ( 1,3% more than in 2001 ) with an average of 522,6 kilos per person ( 527 kg is the European average ). The cities which saw a major garbage increase for 2002 compared with 2001 were Palermo ( + 6,4% ), Rome ( + 4,3% ), and Bologna ( +3% ).

(MENU, from p. 4)

(mixed salad).

e. **Il dolce**, or "dessert," which includes such favorite sweets as *tiramisù*, *torta della nonna* (custard shortbread pie), or *zabaglione* (custard of egg yolks with wine and brandy).

f. To ask for the bill, say: **Il conto, per favore**.

## TID-BITS:

1. In Italy, those milky concoctions - **cappuccino** and **caffè latte** - are drunk only at breakfast. And it's ESPRESSO! (expresso is a fast train).
2. **Al dente** means "to the tooth," or slightly chewy. It is used to describe pasta and rice. The inside should be somewhat crisp-tender.
3. Italians often say **Buon appetito!** or "Enjoy your meal" when the first course is served, and **Salute!** or "**To your health**" when toasting with a drink.
4. Both *il servizio* (service charge/tip) and *il coperto* (cover charge - for bread and water) are usually included in *il conto*.
5. By Italian law, the gratuity is included in the bill, and extra tipping isn't necessary. If the service warrants it, leave your waiter a little extra.

## ITALY'S TAX ON POLLUTING SUVs

Recently the undersecretary of the Ministry of the Environment spoke about the new road tax which will be introduced next year. "The new SUV generation of jeeps is particularly bad in terms of causing air pollution, so they will be heavily taxed along with any other type of car that pollutes the air heavily. They are going to use the proceeds of this tax to fight air pollution".

IAA's "Outstanding Achievement in Writing" Essay

## Proud to be an Italian Granddaughter

Christina Dages

(Editor's note: Christina is the granddaughter of Elvira Kettler)

For 16 years of my life, I have grown up with the strong influence of an Italian grandmother. Her love for her heritage has inspired me to love my own. I call my grandmother Nonnie, a slight deviation of "nonna". She has a zest for living and spreads her joy, enthusiasm, and energy to everyone she meets. Watching her live life has taught me how to live my life to the fullest. The love of family, love of food, love of friends, and love of life makes me the Italian I am so proud to be.

"Viva la famiglia" is an Italian phrase that I learned early on. Nonnie has taught me that my family is a prized possession because they are the people that will be there for me no matter what. Holidays are such an important time for my family because we are all together as one. An anxiously awaited delicious Italian meal bonds our family together at the dinner table. Whether it be Gnocchi, spaghetti, risotto, palenta, or ravioli, we all leave the table completely satisfied. I'll never forget the time Nonnie and I made gnocchi together for a school project. The bond of an Italian grandmother showing her granddaughter how to make one of her specialty meals will remain as one of my favorite and most cherished memories.

Every Saturday, and every so often after that, Nonnie gets together with her group of Italian friends. They converse in Italian and keep up with how each other and their families are doing. I have learned the importance of always making time to get together with friends and how these women are bound to each other for a lifetime of memories and good times. Watching my grandmother converse with her friends amazes me. I have yet to comprehend how they understand each other when talking so fast. I have observed that they use their hands as a way of communicating. I see this as proof that actions do speak louder than words. I've learned a few Italian words such as "Ti amo tanto" which is a special phrase that lets her know I love her and that she is one of my best friends. The connection of speaking in 'her language' is a reminder of how much of an impact being Italian has on my life.

I was very fortunate to be able to travel to Italy in the spring of 1998 with my family. I knew how Nonnie lived her life, and being in Italy for two weeks proved that she carried on the Italian tradition in America with pride. The food in Italy was incredible. I got to experience a cousin's wedding while I was there and the family connection was amazing and made a lasting impression on me. The people were so nice and seemed to love living the simple life. The beautiful landscapes, wonderful art in the museums, and the magnificent history intertwined all within Italy made me realize just how lucky I am. I was blessed with being able to travel to Italy and its memories will forever make me grateful that I *am* a part of the Italian heritage.

Nonnie is such a special person in my life. Without her Italian influence being grounded in me, I would not appreciate so many things in life. She is an Italian woman who lives everyday just to live that day. She has taught me to appreciate the language and the important customs of her Italian background. She has instilled these values into our family, and I hope that someday, my own family will appreciate their Italian background as much as I do mine. The plaque that hangs above Nonnie's kitchen door explains how I feel: "*Una mama italiana e una benedizione di Dio*". This means "An Italian mother is a gift from God", and I am so blessed to be her granddaughter