

# ITALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

visit: [www.LouisvilleItalians.com](http://www.LouisvilleItalians.com)

editor - lou perry

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membership - mary perry

kentucky – indiana sud

## Messaggio di President

Growing up, I would listen with much interest as my mother and father would talk about coming to American and the difficulties they had trying to make the adjustment to this new land without knowing the language. I am sure each member of the IAA can provide similar experiences of hearing such stories from their own childhood. In an effort to help preserve these memories of our Italian heritage, IAA is sponsoring “An Evening of Reflections on Italian-Immigrant Experiences” on April 19th at Da Vinci Ristorante. This event will include a three-course dinner a theatrical performance, and an opportunity for IAA members to share the stories of immigration of their own families (\$17.00 fixed price).

To help stimulate your memories, IAA has arranged for a special presentation by the museum theater actor\* for “Birds of Passage,” a brief, one-act, one-person play that tells the story of Vincent Scopa, an Italian immigrant who worked as a coal miner in eastern Kentucky in the early part of the 20th century. Like many other immigrants of different nationalities, Scopa’s story represents the trials and tribulation of individuals from foreign countries coming to America with the hopes of making a better life than the one they left behind. After the play, IAA members will have the opportunity to share their own family stories of ancestors immigrating to this country.

This event will help to kick off the IAA’s Oral History Project that will be archived on the IAA’s web site for future generations of IAA members and citizens of Louisville to see. I can think of no better legacy to leave to our children and grandchildren than the story of their Italian heritage. For without a sense of from where they came, they will have a reduced sense of where they are going in the future. I hope you will join me and other IAA members for this historical event by bringing any photographs, mementos, and recollections of your family’s heritage to share. The combination of good food, great theater, and heartfelt stories will make this an evening to remember. You can obtain more details about the IAA’s “An Evening of Reflections on Italian-Immigrant Experiences” on April 19th in the “Che Passa!” (What’s Happening!” p.2) feature in this newsletter. I look forward to seeing you and hearing your stories.

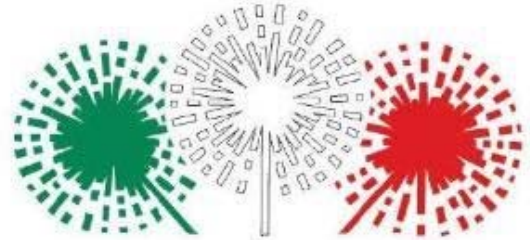
Warmest regards, Bernardo J. Carducci

\*Actor Greg Hardison, Kentucky Center for History in Frankfort. Also, Kentucky’s Lt Governor Dan Mongiardo provided photos and family history (stonemasons – Dominic & Francesca Mongiardo) for this play

## Next Event

April 19, Saturday – Da Vinci Ristorante

(see p. 2 for details)



## APRIL 25 – LIBERATION DAY – ITALY

“Festa della Liberazione”

A gigantic holiday -- celebrated on April 25th, it commemorates the liberation of Italy by Allied troops in the World War II. The holiday is meant to honor all those who died during the war, from soldiers fighting overseas to civilian victims of Allied bombings and atrocities committed during Nazi Germany’s bitter retreat from its former ally’s territory. The lives of those who served as partisans in the Italian Resistance are especially honored.

The April uprising showed to the world that not all Italians agreed with the Fascist rule. Furthermore, it proved that Italians were even prepared to fight against Fascist rule at great cost to themselves. The April uprising casualties amounted to:

- 44,700 Italian partisans killed
- 21,200 Italian partisans wounded or disabled
- 15,000 Italian civilians killed in retaliations
- 40,000 former Italian soldiers died in concentration camps

Some of the most notorious German retaliation events were the Ardeatine massacre, the Marzabotto massacre, and the Sant’Anna di Stazzema massacre.

“Bella Ciao” is an Italian partisan song of WW II.

## Post War Growth and European Integration

After World War II, Italy placed itself at the center of every effort to: unify Europe, to develop its economy and security, and to resist communism’s gains in Europe. Italy and Italians recognized, and still recognize, that their future is brighter when: standing side-by-side with their European neighbors in the European Union, together with the U.S. in N.A.T.O., and with the world in the United Nations. The Italian government became a constitutional monarchy under **Umberto II**, but in **June of 1946**, Italians voted to create a **republic** with a cabinet government. The monarchy was abolished and the royal family left for Switzerland. Emmanuele Filiberto, the ‘exiled crown prince of Italy’ returned to Italy after swearing allegiance to the Italian Republic and renouncing claims to rule Italy.

## Che Passa!

(What's Happening)

**April 19, Saturday** at 1:00 pm at DaVinci Ristorante – Pizzeria at 1043 Shelbyville Road. Join in on this three – phased event. First, “Smiling Chef” Marcello will be giving us special attention to enjoy a menu of variety and quality; second, the one act play by Greg Hardison, an actor from the state’s museum theater; and finally, the opportunity for IAA members to share their family experiences, artifacts, and mementos in their immigration to America and settling into “the land of opportunity”..... **“An Evening of Reflections on Italian-Immigrant Experiences”**. (Tables will be available to display your items).

**Location: Da Vinci Ristorante – Pizzeria**  
10430 Shelbyville Road  
502-245-0205

**Date – Time:** Saturday, April 19 at 4:00 pm.  
**RSVP** by April 14 to: Lou Perry, 231-7702; send check to Lou Perry, 7809 Windgate Dr., Louisville, 40291; make check payable to “Italian American Association”.

**Seating is limited (first come, first served)**

**MENU:**

**ANTIPASTO**

- Pizza
- Insalata di Cesare (Caesar Salad)
- Italain Mixed Garden-Fresh Salad
- Bruschetta alla Italiana (ciabatta bread with garlic, mozzarella, oregano, & tomato.

**PRIMI**

- Lasagna al Forno (Baked Lasagna),
- Penne Gamberi e Vongole in rosa sause,
- Melanzane alla Parmigiana (Eggplant Parmigiana).

**DOLCE:**

- Tiramisu
- Cheese Cake (Torta al Formaggio).

**DRINK:**

Water, soft drink, iced tea, caffe’ (coffee).

**COST:** \$17 (includes tax); gratuity NOT included.

**IAA Members, Family, and Friends Welcomed**

## Playing for Pizza

By John Grisham

After causing his team to lose a championship game, third-string quarterback Rick Dockery flees vengeful fans and finds refuge in the most unlikely corner of professional football: the Italian National Football League. First baffled and then enchanted by all things Italian, Rick navigates his new home in this charming fish-out-of-water novel. [\$21.95; hardcover; 272 pages; Doubleday]

## BIRTHDAYS

**Aprile 2008**

**COMPLEANNO FELICE !!**

Bianchi, John 4-27

Cordini, Roz 4-30

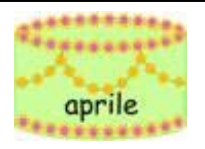
Gilbert, Rose 4-29

Paglino, Vincent 4-27

Passanisi, Georgia 4-3

Fazio, Al 4-8

Hanka, Marty 4-26



## “Watch the Pallino” Bocce Ball in Toluca, Illinois

Bocce ball is the sport for everyone and anyplace .... including the landlocked little town of Toluca, Illinois with its peculiar history of the bocce craze - the annual Labor Day weekend bocce tournament. In the community’s brimming passion for bocce, a sport (or hobby, if one prefers) practiced by nearly every Toluca, man, woman, or child, with a set of hands.



Bocce was introduced at the turn of the century by Italian immigrants. They flocked to Illinois in search of opportunity

and were hired as miners in Toluca, often playing bocce after work around the town’s drinking holes. Soon the “lawn bowling” fever caught on, and it can very well be said that the social sport— because the beauty of it is that anyone can play, even with a few drinks in ‘im— helped bridge relations between the Italians and the town’s mostly German-English population.

Today, to accommodate the 256 teams that sign up for the Labor Day tournament, any old space will do. The favored grassy plots are optional (some will even brave passing cars to play along asphalt streets). Against a score of dramatic Sicilian melodies, or upbeat folk tunes from southern Italy, kids, twenty-somethings and septuagenarians all face off in a series of matches. Many Tolucans add that for them, playing bocce is a way of re-connecting with the town as a whole—the young with the old, those who have moved away with those who stayed behind. Every community is sustained by at least one common cause—be it church, school or mud-wrestling. It just so happens that in Toluca it’s bocce ball .... the “Toluca Bocce Club” t-shirts everywhere.

The characters themselves speak candidly, and it is a veritable open window onto interactions between players and generations, a perfectly preserved slice of Americana. And some Tolucans, not without self-awareness, do their own philosophizing on the bocce trend. One observes: “Bocce is most like life”, referring to the unpredictability of the game. Back in the modern world bocce ball is seeing resurgence. “What they’re doing in Toluca is great.

## CASTAGNO'S VISIT TO ITALY

In the spring of 2007 our family (Castagno and Machetta) planted the seed to visit the homeland of our parents. Some of the family had visited in 1991 and 1995. We decided that for Rosalie and I, this would be our last trip, and we wanted to establish a connection with our younger family members and our Italian relatives. On our previous visits we visited family along with the sights of Rome, Florence, Pisa, and Venice. On this visit some of us bypassed these attractions to give more time to family. After months of preparation and planning, our traveling family consisted of ten members (see photo at end of article). A niece and nephew from Alaska, a niece and nephew from Kansas City, Mo., Rosalie's sister from Connecticut and three of our sons. Family conditions prevented our son's spouses from travel at that time. We all agreed upon a fall travel time for a period of two weeks.

Our nieces and nephews arrived ten days ahead of other family members. They chose to arrive early and stay later to visit the **lake areas** of Northern Italy and Tuscany. The remaining party flew together and arrived at Milan's Malpensa Airport on September 27th. We rented a nine passenger van and the six of us drove that afternoon to spend time in Genoa where we met the remaining family members. My (Paul Castagno) maternal grandparents were married in Genoa and left there in 1893 to settle in **Coal Valley, Kansas** where my mother was born and her two brothers (my uncles) were born in Genoa before immigrating with their parents.

We used *FROMER'S ITALY 2007* as guide where to stay, eat and travel, historical sites, cathedrals, the arts and of course shopping. After researching several hotels, we

selected the Hotel Agnello d'Oro. The prominent Doria family had owned this property and everything around it in the 1600s, because it



was located within walking distance of the rail Stazione Principe. The rate was 90 Euros/night /double including breakfast but not parking. The following morning the six of us boarded a train for Cinque Terre where we met up with the remaining party. I would like to point out how travel is so convenient due to the fantastic train service throughout Italy.

Con't – next column

IAA Members – send your Italy – travel experiences to the editor for IAA Newsletter development..... Grazie

Con't Castagno's In Italy

We spent the day visiting the five **Cinque Terre villages** of Corniglia, Manarola, Riomaggiore, Vernazza (photo), and Monterosso by train. I would like to note that the trains stop at each village station where you can get off and on or just



continue to ride for the views. That evening we all dined in the city of **Reggio** which is the last train stop before Genoa. On Saturday we really broke in our walking shoes while visiting numerous sights in Genoa. On Sunday our three sons boarded the train to **Pisa**, continuing from there to **Florence** and **Venice** and on to **Turin**, arriving on Thursday evening. We all attended church on Sunday in **Genoa**, where the Priest recognized our presence of being from America. After a trip to the Genoa airport to resolve an issue of who would be permitted to drive the nine passenger van since we had lost our main driver who was heading for Pisa, our vehicles were now headed to Coassolo. Our nephew who was driving the other vehicle had invested in a **GPS device**, so this simplified our ability to find our way around Italy. Coassolo is 30 kilometers from Turin.

We arrived in **Coassolo** mid afternoon, checked in our hotel and called relatives to let them know we had arrived safely. It wasn't long until my wife's relatives came calling. Let me point out that only one cousin spoke English, with some degree of fluency. Rosalie's Italian dialect and language skills came back quicker than she thought after not having a reason to use them after so many years. I never learned to speak dialect but I did hear the dialect as I was growing up and surprisingly I was able to do some communication in dialect (Piedontese) Italian.

Coassolo Torinese



Con't – p.4

**Coassolo Torinese** is a comune (municipality) in the Province of Turin in the region Piedmont, located about 30 km northwest of Turin. As of 2004, it had a population of 1,521. The municipality of Coassolo Torinese contains the frazioni (subdivisions, mainly villages and hamlets) Banche, Benne, Castiglione, San Pietro, Vauda, and Vietti. Work and workers: There are 49 industrial firms; 14 service firms, and 16 administrative offices.

Con't from previous column

My father and Rosalie's mother were born in Coassolo. Rosalie's father was from **Monsatero**, just across the valley from Coassolo. My father came to America in 1904, just 21 and single. Rosalie's mother and father came in 1908. It was like their honeymoon since they had been married in August. Both families had relatives in America. Our day one schedule called for a drive up the **Valle d'Aosta**, Italy's window to France and Switzerland. We came upon **Mt Blanc** at the border and could see Switzerland in the distance. We stopped in **St Martins** and viewed a bridge reportedly built in 2 BC. The remainder of the week was spent visiting sights in Turin, and **dining in the homes of relatives**, viewing the remaining homes sights of our families and on Sunday attending Mass in the church with family and relatives that was over 700 years old. Attending mass was most important since our family members had been baptized and married in the church. Later on that day the six of us drove to **Milan** where we spent the next three days visiting sights including the extraordinary "**Last Supper**"; saw the famous and breathtaking **Duomo** near **La Scala Opera House** and the famous high fashion district.

Pont-Saint-Martin Bridge



I have to add that I can still taste the homemade pastas, various wines without the sulfites, pastries, cheeses and crusty Italian bread; the fresh fish caught daily and homemade sausages and too many dishes to name, gelato, and the best pizza in the world. We arrived home safe and sound, sad to leave our family, but tired and happy to be back in the in the USA. Ciao, Bon Appetito



La famiglia - le Memorie  
MERA VIGLIOSE

## EARTH DAY – APRIL 22

**Earth Day 2008** is expected to be the biggest yet! From Tokyo to Togo, to our flagship event on the National Mall in Washington, DC and 7 Other U.S. cities, we will be galvanizing millions of people

around the world behind a Call for Climate, our global warming action theme. Hundreds of events are popping up all over the globe and April 22 should be a most memorable Earth Day. U.S. hosts the **Green Apple Festival**, that will include A-list musicians and actors, environmental and community leaders, and dozens of exhibits. These special events are the place to be on April 20, right before Earth Day. In Washington, DC rock-out with the Roots, Toots and the Maytals, and Warren Haynes. In Denver it's The Neville Brothers, Benevento Russo, Saul Williams, Rose Hill Drive, and Jackie Greene. Our Call for Climate will go out to the U.S. Congress on Earth Day, April 22 and we hope to generate 1-million phone calls to lawmakers!



**April 22**

The Kentucky Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet will join other state agencies, local governments, businesses and organizations in the celebration of Earth Day. Plans are underway for a week-long celebration beginning April 17 and wrapping up on Earth Day, April 22. This year's state government theme -- **Environmental Leadership: Go for the Green** -- encourages Kentuckians to demonstrate leadership by developing environmentally friendly, lifelong habits and influencing others to do the same.

Earth Day and Arbor Day are right around the corner. They are "official" days for those that need the reminder to celebrate the Earth and the vital resources we are provided that sustain our daily lives.

### Remember ....

**In onore del Giorno di Terra, 22 Aprile, nessuno chiedendo all'aiuto sarà oggi trattato come la terra.**

In honor of Earth Day, April 22, anyone asking for help today will be treated like dirt.

**Italians also speak with their hands**

