

ITALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

visit: www.LouisvilleItalians.com

editor - lou perry

dicembre 2009

membership - mary perry

kentucky - indiana sud

Messaggio del Editor

BUON CAPODANNO 2010

With the most joyous time of the year upon us, I wish all a safe and Blessed Christmas.

It is also a time to reflect upon the "Auld Lang Syne" (times gone by); especially this past year - 2009. To me the biggest, warmest event was the fundraiser for the Abruzzo earthquake victims. We are still ever so grateful for the contributions of many to the three-hour event that raised over \$9,600. The year was also filled with many IAA planned fun events.... be it CARNEVALE at Amici Café, the Frankfort Avenue Easter Parade, or the celebration fest during "Italian Heritage Month" (October); we all had the chance to get together and "hoop & holler" for our favorite heritage colors of green, white, and red.

Then in a little more subdued aura we enjoyed the surrounds of the winery trip with a wonderfully packed Italian eats for the picnic to share with all. We also made time to attend one of the productions of the Blue Apple Players as well as to experience the play - Madame Butterfly.

Of course I need not remind anyone that **Ms. Calabria** was selected as "Ms Italy."

If you followed the 2009 issues of the "IAA Newsletter" you got a feel for Italy (or I hope you did) that Italy is not some strange, far off place. Their "peoples" are much like us ... filling the five senses and experiencing the highs and lows that life has to offer. The "Events in Italy" section of the newsletter tried to show the diversity and uniqueness of our culture and heritage as did the "Italian Lessons" which gave you a chance to experience the richness and beauty of the language, dialects and all.

Another highlight of the 2009 year was our commitment to honor Louisville's favorite paesano, Romano L. Mazzoli, as UL selected to house his congressional papers in the UL Library archives with a reading room to be enhanced with his beloved Italian heritage (collectables, photos, oral histories, research opportunities, etc). IAA contributed \$15,000 to the reading room and to the establishment of the "Italian Heritage Collection" in the archives.

What's in-store for 2010? Your recently selected leadership has begun to plan for more exciting, fun, and enjoyable events... email your ideas to any Board member.

Next Event

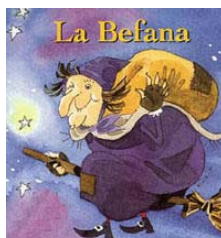
IAA Christmas Gatering - Adrienne's, Dec. 9
(see p.2 for details)



BUON NATALE

Merry Christmas

Christmas in Italy may not look like Christmas in Kentucky, but it's taken very seriously and is an important holiday to all Italians. To wish people a Merry Christmas you'll say, "**Buon Natale**". Instead of images of Santa Claus everywhere, however, the Christmas image you're going to see on display throughout Italy - both in churches and outdoors - is the nativity scene. It's called a "**presepe**" in Italian, and you'll find them everywhere. The very first nativity scene was, in fact, constructed in Italy in 1223 by St. Francis of Assisi - he wanted a way to involve the local people in the Christmas story, so he built a presepe in a cave near Assisi in the town of **Greccio** where he then held the Christmas Eve mass. Greccio continues the tradition to this day. Generally, presepi are assembled on December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, with the baby Jesus added on Christmas Eve.



People do exchange gifts during the holiday season, but not in December. The most important part of the season is actually the **Epiphany, celebrated on January 6**, and this is when children hang stockings out

and when most people exchange presents. An old woman on a broom, not Santa Claus in a sleigh, is responsible for bringing gifts on Epiphany - she's called **La Befana**.

So, for a little Italian heritage and culture experience, you are encouraged to have each family member "hold" one December 25 gift until Epiphany on January 6. What a wonderful tradition to start and/or continue **BUON NATALE**

UNISCALI
Join Us

**Connect with your Italian Heritage and Culture ...
..... in Louisville!**

Enjoy the richness of Italy and the Italian culture, and share the heritage and instill a sense of pride with your children and grandchildren.... who knows, you just might have some fun, too.

MARK IT DOWN:

December 9 – IAA Christmas Gathering (see below)
Jan – Dec 2010 – TBD by the new IAA Leadership Team (suggestions and ideas are welcomed).

IAA Christmas Gathering – December 9 – Wednesday, 6:00 pm.

Adrienne's (Jeffersonville, 129 W. Court) for a pasta buffet, salad, garlic bread, coffee/soft drink, and dessert for \$12.99 adults, \$6.99 (kids 7 to 14), and kids free (under 7). Adrienne's is at Exit 0 at I-65 North or cross the Second Street Bridge and turn right. **For more Information**, contact: Bernardo Carducci (cell: 502-432-3169) or email: bcarducc@ius.edu

MEMBERSHIP 2010

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE JANUARY 1, 2010



l to r: Mary Perry, Lou Perry, Marty Hanka, Bernardo Carducci, the Honorable Romano Mazzoli; his wife, Helen; Ange Vaccaro, Mary Rose Mattei, and Ann Moir.

The University of Louisville has initiated a project to archive the congressional papers of the Honorable Romano L. Mazzoli. IAA is very proud of the contributions and achievements of our local, former congressman. Likewise, Ron is proud of his Italian heritage, and would like to "spice-up" the Reading Room with his Italian heritage. At the recent UL Travelogue – ITALY, IAA presented a check for \$15,000 to the development of the Reading Room and the establishment of the "Italian Heritage Collection" in the UL Library Archives.

IAA would like to invite the Italian community to search their attics for mementos that can be donated or copied. If you think you might have something, call Lou Perry, 231-7702 and talk about it

BIRTHDAYS

**FELICE
COMPLEANNO!!**



Buccola, Charles 12/29	Scorsolini, Bob 12-31
Waters, Mary Margaret 12-28	Mula, Joe 12-22
Winkler, Vincent 12-29	Schweitzer, Tonya 12-10

IAA ELECTION RESULTS FOR 2010

The IAA Election-Dinner at Clifton's on November 18th was as exciting as it was delicious. The **2010 Board of Directors** candidates were nominated, and the membership elected to a two-year term: Theo Beatty, Ange Vaccaro, Mary Perry, and new Board member Marvin Hanka. The **Executive Committee** nominees were identified and the membership elected: President - Bernardo Carducci; Vice President - Lou Perry; Secretary - Bob Scorsolini; & Treasurer - Mary Perry.

CONGRADULATIONS and BEST WISHES TO YOUR 2010 IAA BOARD

Bernardo Carducci, John Beatty, Paul Castagno, Marty Hanka, Walt Carpenter, Ann Moir, Bob Scorsolini, Lou Perry, Theo Beatty, Charles Francesconi, Ange Vaccaro, Mary Perry, and new Board member Marvin Hanka.

Two (2) vacant positions exist and with a Board member recommendation, the Board of Directors may approve an appointment Interested? Become a part of the local Italian American Leadership Team - call a Board member.

IAA gives thanks to the Elections Committee: co-chairs – Marty Hanka and Theo Beatty.

NEW YEARS IN ITALY

Italians have a certain flair when it comes to most things, so it shouldn't be surprising that their New Year celebrations are unique as well. December 31 is called **La Festa di San Silvestro**, and New Year's Day is called **Capodanno**. New Years Eve is marked by a big meal with family and friends where the main course includes pork and lentils. The pork symbolizes the richness of life, and the lentils symbolize money or good fortune. Some cities host big outdoor events on New Years Eve, including popular music acts before and after the fireworks. One of the more famous and well-attended is in Rome's **Piazza del Popolo** every year - it's so popular, in fact, that some people will camp out long before December 31 just to get a place in the piazza. A couple of **traditions** which showcase Italian superstitions are wearing red underwear on New Years Eve (it's supposed to bring good luck), and throwing old belongings out the window at midnight (out with the old, in with the new - year).

SPUMANTE TOAST TO YOU

EVENTS IN ITALY

FEAST of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - generally, *presepi* are assembled on December 8, with the baby Jesus added on Christmas Eve. The feast celebrates the conception of Mary's son Jesus.

ASCOLI PICENO (Le Marche), CELEBRATION of SANTO STEFANO - early in the morning, the residents of this city awaken and don clothing of the time of Christ. Over a thousand people, all dressed in epoch costumes and assuming Biblical roles, intermingle for a day that bridges time back to the origins of Christianity. The city dwellers become actors for that day and they interact with themselves and visitors as if they were actually living two thousand years ago. The effect is stupendous and shouldn't be missed by anyone who is close to the area! Date: 26th of December.

MOLFETTA (Bari), Christmas Celebrations - the festivities are even more realistic because the nativity scenes that are created are set up in real grottos (caverns). There is also a live performance of the Nativity.

BAIANO (near Naples); FEAST of MAIO SPARATO, a secular performance is played out in the streets on Christmas Day. The large chestnut tree (the Maio), cut down in the mountains on Christmas night, is carried into the town amidst the noise of fire-crackers, the sounds of a band and the powerful sounds of rifles and shotguns going off. The strange concert produced by all these sounds reaches its peak in a large dance when the Maio is set on fire. The next day there's a parade.

TELGATE (Bergamo); "ANTI-CHRISTMAS" "non-celebration" - Children in Telgate, near Milan, will celebrate December 25 as the "Holiday of Intercultural Joy" instead of Christmas. If the city's controversial mayor has his way, as he has in years past, there will be no Christmas parties held in local schools, no decorated trees, no nativity scenes, the cake of choice, panettone, is out because it doesn't meet dietary restrictions for Muslim students and there will be no choirs or singing since most popular seasonal songs are based on Catholic traditions.

CASTELMOLA (Messina, Sicily); there is a Christmas parade through the narrow streets of this quaint, tiny town that ends in the center piazza at which time a bonfire is lit to warm all the participants. The location of this unique little village, perched above Taormina, renders one of the loveliest views of Sicily and Mount Etna that can be had. This is a one-of-a-kind town that should be visited by everyone at least once in your lifetime! Date: 24th.

SIRACUSA (Sicily), FEAST of SAINT LUCIA - in a massive parade that includes thousands of pilgrims, the statue of the Saint is carried on a golden coffin from the crypt of the cathedral to the church of Saint Lucia. After seven days, on December 20th, the silver statue of the saint is carried back with a big hoopla including another parade, music, and special illuminations. The week long celebrations (including a greased pole competition) end with a spectacular fireworks display over the harbor. It's a wonderful celebration in one of Sicily's most gracious cities. Date: December 13th.

BUON NATALE

REMEMBER ... DECEMBER

MONONGAH MINING DIASTER December 6, 1907 The Monongah Mine disaster of Monongah, West Virginia has been described as "the worst mining disaster in American History". The explosion was thought to have been caused by the ignition of methane which ignited the coal dust. The vast majority of the victims were Italians (171) who had migrated from San Giovanni in Fiore, San Nicola dell'Alto, Falerna, Gizzeria, Civitella Roveto, Duronia, Civita d'Antino, Canistro, Torella del Sannio, and other villages in Calabria, Abruzzo, and Molise.

PEARL HARBOR December 7, 1941 Japanese warplanes attacked United States at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, 1941.

"The Night Before Christmas", originally titled "A Visit From St. Nicholas" by Clement C. Moore, was published in New York, 1823 ... **December 23.**

FIRST RECORDED CHRISTMAS, December 25, A.D. 336 was celebrated in Rome.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL ... the first college basketball game was held, 1896 ... **December 10.**

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS A ... M-U-F-F-A-L-E-T-T-A

New Orleans first stop – Café DuMonde and an order of Beignet ... then later, second, third, and fourth stops ... at Central Grocery for New Orleans' signature sandwich, the **MUFFALETTA**. The "muffaletta" is a specialty of New Orleans, this sandwich originated in 1906 at the Central Grocery. The sandwich consists of the round loaf of crusty Italian bread, split and filled with layers of sliced Provolone cheese, Genoa salami, and Cappicola ham, topped with the all important Olive Salad: a chopped mixture of green, unstuffed olives, pimientos, celery, garlic, cocktail onions, capers, oregano, parsley, olive oil, red-wine vinegar, salt, and pepper.

YOUR COMPUTER DOCTOR



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Location:
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Phone:
(502) 807 6987
Mon - Tues:
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We fix computers, solve networking issues, install telephone systems (VOIP), and create web pages and portals with all options you want (including capability to make payments on line).

STRUFFOLI

(Serves 8)

1 cup all-purpose flour
 1/4 teaspoon salt
 2 large eggs
 1 teaspoon grated orange zest



Vegetable oil for frying
 1 cup honey
 Multicolored candy sprinkles

In a large bowl, combine the flour and salt. Add the eggs and zest. Stir until well blended. Transfer to a lightly floured surface and knead for 1-2 minutes.

Add a little more flour if dough seems sticky. Shape the dough into a ball, cover with an overturned bowl.

Let rest for 30 minutes.

Roll the dough into 1/2-inch thick ropes then cut into 1/2-inch nuggets.

Heat about 2 inches of oil to 370 degrees F. in a wide saucepan or deep fryer.

Begin adding struffoli in batches into the oil to fit without crowding.

Cook, stirring occasionally with a slotted spoon, until crisp and brown, about 1 minute.

Remove the struffoli with the slotted spoon and transfer to paper towels to drain.

When all the struffoli are fried, gently heat the honey just to a simmer in a wide saucepan.

Remove the honey from the heat, add the struffoli and coat well.

Pile the struffoli into a mound on a large platter. Dust with the multicolored sprinkles.

IMMIGRANT STATUE

To commemorate the pioneers who came to or passed through New Orleans on their way to more northern ports or western destinations, the "Crescent City" Italian-Americans created an immigrant plaza that included this statue on a levee "Riverwalk" of the Mississippi River.



New Orleans Immigrants Statue with Lou Perry at its side

According to Sal Serio, President of the New Orleans "Societa Italiana", curator at the Italian American Museum, and descendant of Cefalu, Sicily; many of the Italian immigrants were contracted to work the sugar cane plantations of the surrounding "parishes" (counties)".

ITALIAN LESSIONS

Il Natale (Christmas)

This month we shall review some words that may be useful in relation to Christmas. Keep in mind that in Italy certain traditions, like not eating meat on Christmas Eve, are still observed.

La famiglia si riunisce— (The family gathers)

La preghiera prima di cena -- (the prayer before dinner)

I regali di Natale (Christmas gifts)

Apriamo I regali (We open the gifts)

Andiamo alla Messa di mezzanotte (We go to midnight Mass)

Si siedono al tavolo—(They sit at the table)

Il papa' (il babbo) si siede a capotavola-- (Dad sits at the head of the table)

Si mangia pesce (We are eating fish)

Beviamo vari tipi di vini—(we drink several kinds of wine)

Ho mangiato troppo -- (I ate too much)

Gli avanzi -- (the leftovers)

Sono sazio (Sono sazia)—(I am full --masculine-feminine forms)

Devo sbottonarmi I pantaloni (note the reflexive form) —(I must unbutton my pants)

Le Castagne (pl.) – (chestnuts)

Il servizio di porcellana (the china dishes)

I bicchieri di cristallo (crystal glasses)

La tovaglia di lino bianco (the white linen tablecloth)

I tovaglioli di lino (linen napkins)

Dopo cena guardiamo la partita – (after dinner we watch the game)

Le noci (walnuts)

L'uva passa (Uvetta) – raisins)

Chi aiuta a sprecchiare? (Who can help to clear the table?)

La mamma versa da bere agli invitati – (mom pours the drinks for the guests)

Devo slacciarmi (reflexive form) la cintura—(I must untie my belt)

Il sedano (celery)

Le carote (pl.) – (carrots)

Le cipolle (pl.) – (onions)

Sprecchiare il tavolo-- (Clear the table)

Provided by Dr. Marina Del Negro Karem (UofL)

HAVE A JOYFUL AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS

Remember

Quando smettete di credere nel Babbo Natale è quando cominciate ottenere i vestiti per il Natale.

When you stop believing in Santa Claus is when you start getting clothes for Christmas.

Italians also speak with their hands

