

ITALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

visit: www.LouisvilleItalians.com

editor - lou perry

dicembre 2010

membership - mary perry

kentucky – indiana sud

Messaggio del Presidente

As I write this message the day after Thanksgiving, I do so with mixed feelings of sorrow and gratitude. I am saddened by the recent **passing of Albert Tomassetti and Gus Dattilo**, two longtime members of the IAA. However, once again, I have much for which to be thankful. As always, I am most thankful for the existence of the IAA, as it allows me to share the pride I have in my Italian heritage with so many other likeminded individuals. I am thankful that once again I was reelected as a member of the **IAA Board of Directors** (and President) along with the other Board members (see p.2).

Being President of the IAA is always an important reason for me to be grateful this time of the year. However, this year being reelected President of IAA marks the 10th consecutive year you have given me this honor. Being elected once again this year allows me to continue my efforts to do all that I can to let people in the community know about our organization and all that we do to help promote the strong sense of heritage and family values characteristic of the IAA. During the past year, one of my principal objectives has been to **increase IAA visibility** in the community by doing more events that involve working with other organizations. Building on our past success in this regards, I will continue to make enhancing public awareness of the IAA through collaboration with other community organizations a priority again in the upcoming year. However, to do this, I would like to have **suggestions from members** of the IAA. Do you know of an organization that provides a valuable service to the community that could benefit from collaborating with the IAA? If so, let me know. I am particularly interested in helping the IAA to work with public organizations that provide social services and assistance to families in need. I look forward to hearing from you on this, as well as any additional suggestions you have regarding **social or community activities** you feel will help to build stronger connections among members of the IAA and enhanced involvement of the IAA in the community. I can be reached by phone (502-432-3169) or E-mail (bcarducc@ius.edu). Better yet, tell me in person when I see you and all of your family and friends at upcoming IAA events, which are listed in the *UNISCALI* ("Join Us") feature of the newsletter.

Warmest regards, Bernardo J. Carducci

Next Event

IAA Christmas Gathering, Thursday, Dec. 16
(see p. 4 for details)



ITALIAN CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PRESEPI

"Christmas Crib"

Traditionally, the main focus of Christmas decorations in Italy is the Nativity scene, **presepe, or presepio** in Italian.

Every church has a presepe and they can be found in squares, shops, and other public areas. Displays often go beyond the manger scene and may even include a representation of the entire village. Presepi are usually set up



starting December 8, the Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception, through January 6, Epiphany but some are unveiled on Christmas Eve. Many people set up a Christmas crib in their house and figurines for nativity scenes are made in many parts of Italy. Although the presepe is usually set up before Christmas, baby Jesus is added on Christmas Eve. The Nativity scene originated with St. Francis of Assisi in 1223 when he constructed a nativity scene in a cave in the town of Greccio and held Christmas Eve mass and a nativity pageant there. Greccio reenacts this event each year.

VISUALIZATION EXERCISE - 101

Like branches on a tree, we may grow in different directions, yet our roots remain the same.

IAA BOARD - 2011: President — Bernardo Carducci; Vice President — Charlie Francesconi; Secretary — Bob Scorsolini; Treasurer — Mary Perry; Paul Castagno, Marty Hanka, Ann Moir, and Angelo "Ange" Vaccaro.

UNISCALI

Join Us

Find Italian Culture in Louisville!

You don't have to be Italian to join our fun events, so invite family & friends to participate in many exciting gatherings focused on the Italian culture and cuisine.

MARK IT DOWN:

December – IAA Christmas Gathering (see p.4)
 January – IAA Board Planning Session (submit your suggestions to a Board member).

La famiglia si riunisce (the family gathers)

IAA Christmas Gathering, Thursday, December 16 at "Selena's at Willow Lake Tavern"..... see p.4 ?

WHEN IN ROME SHOP EUROMA2

Rome's enormous new shopping mall with its 240 stores, is the largest mall in Europe. The interior of the Mall is quite lovely:

a glass domed atrium, wall to wall decorative marble floors and marble obelisks reaching from the 1st level to the 3rd. What is truly interesting, however, is how the Romans use the mall and "live" it. Basically, these Romans are using the mall in exactly the same way as they would a neighborhood piazza in town! You will find yourself



surrounded by young families with babies in strollers, small children chasing one another, grandmas and grandpas, people with their dogs, families sitting at tables enjoying gelato or snacks. (from Italian Notebook)

COMMA – VIRGOLA – PUNTO WITH NUMBERS

Italians use the comma - which is a **virgola**, not a comma! – to indicate the decimal point. So they write 1,5 instead of 1.5 and our paesano say **uno virgola cinque**. Virgola is pronounced with the stress on the first syllable. Conversely, Italians use the **punto** or full stop to indicate thousands: 1.000 instead of 1,000.

COLOSSEUM - The Colosseum was built in an elliptical shape to prevent gladiators from retreating to corners and to allow the spectators an unobstructed view of all the action in the arena.

BIRTHDAYS

Mula	Joe	12/22
Scorsolini	Bob	12/31



COMPLEANNO FELICE !!

Al Tomassetti has joined Lola and the heavenly Father. Al provided IAA with strong, dynamic leadership; genuine interest and loyalty; and was one who loved and cherished his Italian heritage. Also, **Gus Dattilo**, a long time IAA member, passed away. Our Blessings go with them and their families, for we will miss them.

IAA ELECTION RESULTS FOR 2011

The IAA Election-Dinner at Clifton's on November 17th was as exciting as it was delicious. The **2011 Board of Directors** candidates were nominated, and the membership elected to a two-year term: Bernardo Carducci; Charlie Francesconi; Bob Scorsolini; Paul Castagno, Marty Hanka, and Ann Moir. The **Executive Committee** nominees were identified and the membership elected: President - Bernardo Carducci; Vice President – Charlie Francesconi; Secretary - Bob Scorsolini; & Treasurer - Mary Perry.

2011 IAA BOARD BEST WISHES TO Bernardo Carducci, Paul Castagno, Marty Hanka, Ann Moir, Bob Scorsolini, Charles Francesconi, Ange Vaccaro, and Mary Perry. Several 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 & John Beatty.

BANALITA' (TRIVIA)

Why did DiCaprio's mom name him Leonardo? The actor Leonardo DiCaprio was named after artist Leonardo da Vinci; apparently, his pregnant mother was standing in front of a Leonardo painting at the Uffizi museum in Florence when she first felt DiCaprio kick. (from Baltimore's Little Italy newsletter).

POINSETTIAS were first introduced into the United States in 1828 by the U.S. ambassador to Mexico, Joel Poinsett.

FIAT IS BACK



FIAT 500 C



Interior – Fiat 500 C

The USA market will soon see this reborn - FIAT brand. This "Italian Mini-Cooper" will get 30-40 mpg. Just 500 units of the special model will be sold here. The 500 will start at around \$15,300: many features are available.

EVENTS IN ITALY

Stiffe (L'AQUILA) Bethlehem in the Grotto - for three months prior to December a group of artisans, calling themselves the Project Stiffe from the nearby community of San Demetrio ne' Vestini work to create an authentic reproduction of the Bethlehem nativity scene that is truly unique to all the world. They create life-size statues of the entire nativity set whom they clothe in epoch costumes, then they transport them to a 650 meter deep grotto that is located in the commune of Stiffe. The grotto was chosen because of its incredible beauty which includes magnificent stalagmites and a breathtaking natural waterfall. The low humidity also allows them to keep the costumes and statues from degenerating during their month on display. Under spectacular illumination, the scene is visited by over 70,000 spectators each year and is definitely worth a visit if you're in the area. Date: the entire month of December

Greccio (RIETI) Historical commemoration of the first Franciscan nativity scene, which dates back to 1223. At 11 p.m. on Christmas Eve there is a parade of people on horseback, wearing 13th century costumes. Carrying torches, they arrive at the Cathedral of Saint Francesco, where there is a live nativity scene and a medieval choir performs. The live nativities are performed on the day after Christmas and on Epiphany (January 6th) as well. Date: the day before and after Christmas, plus January 6th.

Prato (FIRENZE) - Traditional exposure of the Holy Belt on Donatello's pulpit, in the Cathedral. The day after is the feast of the Patron of Saint Stefano. Date: 24th.

Livorno (LIVORNO) - Christmas Cup Boat Race - a boat race takes place in front of the spectacular Terrazza Mascagni between the 16 neighborhoods of the city. The day is filled with Christmas festivities and an interesting Christmas market. Date: The Sunday before Christmas.

Rosignano Marittimo (LIVORNO) - Live Nativity Scene - since 1987, this medieval town has put on a re-enactment of the miracle of the birth of Christ by following a path through the town which is made up to look just like Bethlehem. There 200 various actors involved in the presentation and the town dedicates all its resources for the production. The first presentation is given on Christmas Eve at 9:00 PM and there are usually two other presentations given on the day after Christmas (S. Stefano). Date: Christmas Eve.

Catalabiano (CATANIA) - On Christmas Eve, a traditional lighting of the log, called ddumari a zzucata, takes place. Torch lit Parade. Date: Christmas Eve.

Saponara (MESSINA) - Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Plus there are two parades: the Parade of the Bear and the Parade of the Princely Court, both of which are in period costume and have been performed since the year 1600. Date: 8th.

Siracusa (SIRACUSA) - Feast in honor 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. The week long celebrations end with a spectacular fireworks display over the harbor. Date: December 13th

Montagnana (PADOVA) - Medieval - The town brings back the sights and sounds of the Middle Ages. Date: December 31st.

ITALIAN LESSONS

VOCABOLO

Umbria - Once in a while, it is a good thing to spend a day driving through Umbria with the express intention of getting lost and exploring the back roads and smaller towns of the region. When you do so, you are likely to come upon signs that contained a fairly unknown word to many, although Umbrians will be familiar with it: **vocabolo**. Vocabolo means "word". In Umbria however,



vocabolo also refers to the tiniest part of a toponym, or place name, that exists. The Italian word frazione refers to a town or geographical area that is a "fraction" of its larger neighboring town. Hence you have the town of Montebuono and the neighboring but much smaller Frazione di Montebuono.

In Umbria this concept gets taken a step further and the tiniest community or cluster of houses is called a vocabolo. Vocabolo is an archaic term, but is a charming one that can still be found with great frequency in the Umbrian countryside.

**BUONA FORTUNA. I MIEI AMICI
E CIAO PER UN ANNO**

Remember

**Ci è niente di più
triste in questo
mondo che svegliare
la mattina di Natale e
non essere un
bambino**

There is nothing sadder in this world than to awake Christmas morning and not be a child.

**Italians also speak
with their hands**



LAST MONTH

Winner – **Roz Cordini**

Which is Italy's main river? Po River



Contact: Marty Hanka
at 456-1636 or
mphanka@insightbb.com
A **RSVP** would help in
the planning

IAA Christmas Gathering

Thursday, December 16
6:00 PM – Wine & Social
6:30 PM – Dinner

Selena's at Willow Lake Tavern

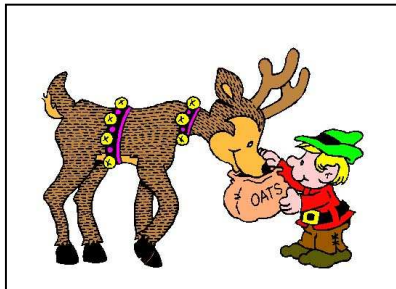
(502) 245-9004
**10609 LaGrange Rd
Lyndon**

Louisville, KY 40223
Procedure: off the menu
& individual receipts
(18% tip added already)



La famiglia si riunisce

OUR ITALIAN HERITAGE ...
You got it from your parents,
it was all they had to give;
So it's yours to keep, nourish,
and cherish for as long as
you shall live,
It was a blessing the day they
got it, and a worthy heritage
to bear,
When they got it from their
parents, there was no
dishonor there,
So protect and guard it safely,
for when all is said and done,
You'll be proud of your Italian
heritage when you pass it on
to your daughter and son.



Critique of Selena's

At first blush, the notion of a Creole/Cajun/Sicilian restaurant might sound like the outcome of a focus group gone haywire. But not so, says Alan Salmon, owner of Selena's at the Willow Lake Tavern. Salmon spent his formative years eating in the kitchen of his neighbor, Selena D'Avanza. The second-generation Sicilian was raised in New Orleans and moved to Tampa, Fla., in 1959, where she promptly turned her home kitchen into an ad hoc youth center that lured hungry teens from all over the neighborhood.

- Appetizers (\$7-\$12)
- Salad (\$5-\$12)
- Soups (\$3-\$8)
- Pastas (\$9-\$15)
- New Orleans (\$11-16)
- Seafood (\$17-\$19)
- Seafood Platters (\$15-\$18)
- Entrees (\$13-\$24)
- Desserts (\$6-\$8)
- * Kids Menu
- Side Orders (\$3)
- Beverages

* KIDS MENU

The Kid's menu is on the coloring page handed out by our server. All kid meals are \$4.99.

