



ITALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

visit: www.LouisvilleItalians.com

editor - lou perry

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membership - mary perry

kentuckiana

Messaggio di President

The Christmas season is upon us. During this special time, it is important to reflect on those traditions that have made our lives so happy and meaningful. One of the traditions I am most thankful for is the sense of community that is offered by the IAA and its many active members. Not having any family members locally, I have come to rely on the members of the IAA to be my adopted family. The sense of family I receive from the IAA is best represented at the IAA Family Christmas Dinner at St. Joseph Children's Home where the children and staff of St. Joe's are invited to be part of our family. It is this large family-style meal that reminds me of all of the wonderful family gathers at Christmas I enjoyed growing up with my family. So, I look forward to seeing all of you at the Annual IAA Family Christmas Dinner at St. Joseph Children Home on Sunday, December 9th, which is described in more detail below.

Another important tradition for which I am grateful is the tradition of service by members of the IAA. This spirit of service was demonstrated quite clearly at the IAA Elections Dinner at Clifton's Pizza last month. The elections resulted in the following individuals serving on the IAA Board of Directors: newly elected members Angelo "Ange" Vaccaro and Debbie Pollard and returning board members John Beatty, Theo Beatty, Michele Melillo Clem, Paul Castagno, Ann Moir, Katherine Pulzone, Marty Hanka, Lou Perry as secretary, Bob Scorsolini as vice president, Mary Perry as treasurer, and Bernie Carducci as president. Please make it a point to express your gratitude to these individuals for their willingness to serve. Serving on the IAA Board of Directors is one of the most significant activities members of the IAA can do to preserve and promote our Italian traditions and heritage in the community.

In the spirit of sharing your traditions, I also want to call your attention to a new link on the IAA web site (www.LouisvilleItalians.com) titled "Italian Holiday Traditions," which was developed by IAA board member Katherine Pulzone. This link provides examples of Italian Christmas traditions that are both personal, such as family traditions, and historical, such as those in Italy. I encourage you to learn more about these Italian Christmas traditions by visiting this web link and consider sharing some of your own Christmas traditions by E-mailing them to Katherine at KPuzo@insightbb.com. Sharing your personal and family Italian Christmas traditions is one of the best ways I know

con't on p. 2

Next Event

Christmas Gathering – Sunday, Dec. 9

(see p. 3 for details)

IAA DUES are due January 1



The **Ceppo** (right) is the Italian version of the Christmas tree.

Resembling a ladder with shelves, the **Ceppo**, or Christmas pyramid, is formed by linking two wooden sides with wood shelves. A nativity scene (presepio) is placed on the bottom shelf and decorations and gifts fill the other shelves. The "Tree of Light", as it is also known, is decorated with a star or an angel hung at the apex. This "Tree of Light" became the Christmas tree in other countries.

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS ANGEL

The "Blue Angel" without doubt the "Blue Angel" is most popular. Not only is the quality of the Blue Angel picture absolutely superb, in the artistic context, the "Blue Angel" picture also portrays the innocence and beauty of the angel. Using the face of a child as the Blue Angel seemed to reflect Christmas, and the importance of children during this, the happiest, of Christian festivals.



 How many sides does a snowflake have? 12, 8, 6, 10
 Which of these is NOT one of Santa's reindeer?
 Dasher, Dixon, Rudolph, Donner.

Good King Wenceslas was king of which country? Bohemia, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary

ANNUAL EVENTS IN ITALY

TEATRO DIVINA COMMEDIA, Rome; piazzale G. Paolo; from 23 Nov to 15 Feb 2008: L'opera. L'uomo che cerca l'Amore (Divine Comedy. Opera. A man looking for love). Dante's journey is brought on to the stage in a rock operatic version featuring heavy metal guitars, 3D projections, and a notable cast and a group of extraordinary acrobats and singers. This artistic gives one of the most important literary creations a place on stage and sets it to rock and blues music and Gregorian chants.

The **PRESEPIO** (Nativity Scene) - this Italian invention is one of the oldest purely Christian traditions that has had a truly international impact. An anonymous Italian sculpted a bas-relief on an Early Christian sarcophagus in 342 AD which gives Italy claim to the earliest known depiction of Christ's birth - incorporating New Testament iconography with the Babe laid in a manger visited by shepherds (Luke 2:7-19), and the wise men from the east (Matthew 2:2), while the attending ox and donkey are derived from the Old Testament Isaiah (1:3). However, the first true presepio was invented by Saint Francis of Assisi. To celebrate Christmas of 1223, the medieval populist/Saint asked a landowner friend of his, Giovanni Vellita, to place an ox and an ass next to an empty manger filled with hay outside of the church he had rebuilt in Greccio. Almost every village and city in Italy presents a unique, community Nativity Scene.

UMBRIA JAZZ WINTER - Orvieto - December 30 - January 3; a splendid celebration of all forms of jazz, the city is transformed into a tiny New Orleans in the center of the most beautiful countryside that Italy has to offer. The concerts run from mid-day to midnight nonstop and can happen anywhere from the beautifully restored Theater Mancinelli and the 13th century Palazzo del Sette to the city's many coffee shops and historic plazas. The city snaps to the beat of international jazz greats and virtuoso musicians from all over the world.

CHRISTMAS OF FABLES - every weekend December until January 10 th, this delightful little village - Riva del Garda, **TRENTO** - at the top of Lake Garda lights up and decorates its piazzas and narrow, winding streets in such a way as to create a unique and magical Christmas setting. Each piazza represents a different fable or legend and the illuminated characters and settings are fantastic in their detail. There are accompanying activities for adults and children that include workshops, playgrounds, concerts, and Christmas markets. On the 8th of December (Immaculate Conception), which is a national holiday in all of Italy, the village's Nativity Scene is officially illuminated to the delight of a massive crowd that gathers. This Nativity Scene is unique in the fact that is it submerged in the waters of Lake Garda just off the shores of the city.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

COMPLEANNO FELICE !!



Mula, Joseph 12/22

Scorsolini, Bob 12/3

Waters, Mary Margaret 12/28

Winkler, Vincent (youth) 12/29

BELATED: MARVIN HANKA November 28

ANN MOIR The IAA Board extends a special salute to Ann for her work in organizing and working the Pastry Booth at **FESTA ITALIANA**; and, also in baking in her kitchen for the items she brought -- biscotti and pizzelle.

Puppets, Pinocchio, Marionettes, and Masks

Italy is the home of many of our theatrical traditions. Punch and Judy hand puppets originated in Italy with Pulcinella puppet shows. Pinocchio started life as a marionette (attached to strings) puppet. Beautiful Venetian masks represent the same characters seen in puppet shows and are worn during carnival festivals.

The character of Pulcinella, Punch in English, originated in Italy with the popular theater Commedia dell'Arte in the 1500s. Other standard characters are his wife, called Judy in English, the Baby, the Doctor, the Policeman, and the Crocodile.

You will find puppet theaters in large public parks in Italy. If you see a puppet theater, do stop and watch one of these goofy, slapstick shows. You don't need to understand Italian, the plot is obvious. When you watch one of these puppet shows, you'll see Punch, Judy, and their friends committing some heavy, cartoon-type violence! In the 1700s people were as concerned about violence in puppetry as we are about violence on TV.

Con't from p.1 "President's Message"

to not only preserve those traditions but to help them grow.

In closing, I am thankful to be given another opportunity to serve a president of this organization that means so much to me. I look forward to seeing all of you at future IAA events so that I may have the chance to express my gratitude to you personally.

Warmest regards,
Bernardo J. Carducci, President

Che Passa! (What's Happening)

CHRISTMAS GATHERING - Sunday, December 9; noon to 3pm at St. Joseph Children's Home on Frankfort Avenue. One of the most warming touches is that we will share this moment with the children of St. Joseph..... they really seem to love it when "the Italian's are coming". A variety of activities is planned, including Marilyn the Clown who will be making balloon animals for the children; door prizes; a virtuoso of Christmas carols; games; and a visit from the one-and-only SANTA who will have a gift for each child.

One of the best parts of the Christmas Gathering is enjoying the IAA members' favorite recipe dishes – they are sooo good. To assure variety please follow the division:

- A – H Desserts
- I – P Vegetables or Casseroles
- Q – Z Salads other than tossed

Also, to assure quantity ...please bring enough to feed the number of individuals in your party and eight other individuals.

For the main dishes Melillo's Italian Restaurant and Michele have planned a fantastic, mouth-watering, to die for pasta, meatballs, Italian sausage, tossed salad and bread; and soft drinks and coffee will be available.

In addition to the "famiglia" of IAA members and St. Joseph kids; please bring a **non-perishable food item** for the IAA Food Basket that will go to make another family's holidays a little better.

MEMBERSHIP dues are due January 1send in your check or better yet, pay your dues at the Christmas Gathering and be eligible for the door-prizes. For the membership form, go to your IAA website – www.LouisvilleItalians.com.

IAA ELECTION CENTRAL

The IAA Election meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Bernardo Carducci; the results where:

2008 Board of Directors Candidates: Mary Perry, Theo Beatty, Angelo "Ange" Vaccaro, and Debbie Pollard were nominated to a two-year Directorship. All of these individuals were elected by the IAA membership present to the IAA Board by a unanimous vote. The slate for the **Executive Committee** was: Bernardo Carducci, President; Bob Scorsolini, Vice President; Lou Perry, Secretary; & Mary Perry, Treasurer. No nominations were made from the floor. The slate was elected by the membership present by a unanimous vote. There were no nominations for Program Director; that position remains vacant.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2008 IAA BOARD

The re-elected and new Board members will join: Bernie, Bob, Marty, John, Ann, Kat, Paul, Lou, and Michele. Two vacant positions can be appointed Interested? Become a part of the local Italian American Leadership Team - call a Board member.

FLORIDA TILE INC. (Kentucky) and PANARIA Group (Italy)

The opening of the new plant of Florida Tile, Inc., a subsidiary of the Italian Panaria Group, one of the most important ceramic manufacturers in the world in the production of ceramic for building uses, took place in **Lawrenceburg, Kentucky** recently. The investment has been significant: 15 million dollars for a plant specializing in the production of porcelain stoneware, employing 121 employees, and providing an excellent distribution network. During the opening, the Italian administrators of "Panaria" and Florida Tile, Inc., located in Lakeland, Florida, confirmed their intention to expand in order to reach a leadership position on the North American market, through the merging of the two entrepreneurial cultures, technologic innovation, care for R&D and raw materials use.

FURLA Accessories

The Furla family legacy began in 1927 when Aldo Furlanetto started his business as a trader in accessories. In the 70's Aldo's children took over the business and decided to develop the Furla brand internationally.



They created the Furla collection of luxury accessories including handbags, watches, scarves, hats, gloves, sunglasses and most recently footwear. Based on elegance and artisanal details, the Furla handcrafted Italian brand is known for its affordable luxury. Within the next 10 years, Furla opened several stores worldwide and created a network of profitable franchises. Furla was one of the first luxury brands to create a franchising network, and to utilize a store concept that became a "case study" for many companies for its innovative merchandising and visual format.....'Made in Italy'.

CHECK IT OUT

**NEW LINK ON IAA's WEBSITE
"Kate's Corner"**

You'll find reviews of Italian-related books, movies, and travel; and for seasonal favorites.... Italian Christmas and memories.

Go to: www.LouisvilleItalians.com
..... then link to "Kate's Corner"

ARANCINI

'Arancini' which means literally 'little oranges' are available mainly from take-away pizzerie and rosticceria.

Ingredients

500gr of rice, 100gr butter, 100gr parmigiano reggiano cheese, nutmeg, parsley, meat stock, 1 chopped onion, 100gr chopped ham, 100gr peas, 1 glass white wine, flour, 1 beaten egg, grated bread, olive oil for frying, salt and pepper.

Making it

- * Prepare a risotto with the stock, butter, nutmeg and grated parmigiano reggiano cheese. (Cook until 'al dente' and let cool).
- * In another pan add the onions, ham, peas, salt, and pepper to taste, wine, touch of flour and water.
- * Cook on a moderate heat until the mixture is dense. Allow to cool.
- * Take the risotto and form an orange sized ball in the hand. Make a little hole with the finger and fill it with the meat and pea sauce.
- * Close the rice over the hole. Roll the ball in the flour, the beaten egg, then grated bread.
- * In a pan of boiling olive oil drop the ball carefully to fry.
- * Remove when it is a golden color and crispy.
- * Dry off the oil and eat immediately.

VAL GARDENA WOODCARVING

(On Your Editor's Christmas List)

Val Gardena is renowned for its centuries-old woodcarving tradition. Gifted craftsmen are today reviving these ancient traditions with items of a historical flavor combined with the delicacy of contemporary art. In 1998 several woodcarving producers founded the **GARDENA ART Association**. The aim of this Association is to strengthen the Val Gardena woodcarving image and promote sales through the Gardena Art quality brand, which certifies their quality and origin. Gardena Art woodcarvings are exclusively produced in the Gardena Valley and bordering areas. At present about 30 woodcarving producing companies make up the Association, and are undertaking the task of reviving this ancient tradition handed down from generation to generation.



ITALIAN LESSIONS – Dialect of Luigi

Italy is one of the top economies in the world. An estimated 7,500 American companies do business with Italy and more than 1,000 U.S. firms have offices there; so, many employers are seeking people who speak both Italian and English. Knowing Italian is greatly beneficial in several career fields, for Italy is a world leader in the culinary arts, interior design, fashion, graphic design, furniture design, just to mention a few.

Merry Christmas (Buon Natale)

l'albero (tree)	il ceppo (log)
l'angelo (angel)	il fuoco (fire)
il biglietto d'auguri (card)	la mensola del caminetto (mantle)
la calza (stocking)	il regalo (gift)
il caminetto (fireplace)	la stella (star)

FESTA ITALIANA 2007 – Bocce players from Tennessee's Sons of Italy Lodge I think they are beatable. Actually, it would be more like a cake-walk.



Our festival crowd enjoys the sites, sounds, and tastes of FESTA 2007.

....."Primo" Joe LoCasto and his wife, Sue, enjoy FESTA 2007.



THREE WISE WOMEN ... !!!!!

What if it had been three Wise Women instead of three Wise Men?
They would have asked directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and brought practical gifts.

Remember

Un Natale ho preso una batteria con un detto di nota, "il Gioco non ha incluso".

One Christmas I got a battery with a note saying, "Toy not included".

Italians also speak with their hands



“BELLA ITALIA”

"Bella Italia" is the 2008 theme of the 67th Home and Garden Show, held each February at Cleveland's I-X Center, the largest such show in North America. The nine-day event features celebrity gardens, gardening demonstrations, dozens of gardening and home improvement vendors, home models, and food and drink. The unrivaled heritage and culture of Italy will be the cornerstone for the Home & Garden Show. From romantic villas and historic architecture to delicious cuisine and fine wines, the "Bella Italia" (Beautiful Italy) theme will perfectly capture the country's wealth of treasures.



The landscape architects will create a visually and authentic Italian tribute 17 Italian-themed gardens; a Renaissance-styled "Entry Featured Garden", an "Italian Marketplace & Piazza", a charity Bocce Ball Tournament", a "Paganini Cooking Stage", and a chance to win a trip for two to Florence.

CHESTNUTS ROASTING

The most famous depiction of chestnuts is probably their mention in the Mel Tormé and Bob Wells' classic, "The Christmas Song" which begins with the phrase "Chestnuts roasting on an open fire". Chestnuts (Castagne) should not be confused with either Horse-chestnuts (also called "buckeye"), or water-chestnuts; both are so named for producing superficially similar nuts.



A chestnut blight, early in the 20th century, was introduced to North America by the importation of Asian chestnut plants. This resulted in the subsequent destruction of 3.5 billion American Chestnut trees over the next decade or so. What had been the most important tree throughout the east coast was reduced to insignificance. Today, a resistant species, Henry's Chestnut, has been used in breeding programs in the US to create hybrids with the American Chestnut that are also disease resistant.

HISTORIC WINTER STORM - December 2004

A historic and major winter storm affected much of the Ohio Valley from the 22nd into the 23rd of December 2004. Two bursts of heavy snow, separated by a few hours, brought over two feet of snow. Interstates 64 and 65 across southern Indiana were closed for a number of hours during this storm. Snow totals of 30 inches or more were measured across Jefferson County. Significant sleet accumulations also fell on the Louisville metro area.

CHARITY RETURNS TO IAA

The Italian American Association (IAA) is back to instituting its goal of charitable works. As part of the bylaws, IAA seeks to be a supporting part of the community – charity is one of those goals of the association. The "new" FESTA ITALIANA at the Highlands site has helped the association generate monies to

re-institute donations and scholarships. The IAA Board is thankful to its membership who volunteered to make Lou Perry Presents IAA Check To Library FESTA a



Lou Perry Presents IAA Check To Library FESTA a

success ... not to mention the work of Mike Pollio and Bernie Carducci in organizing the event and seeking sponsors and vendors. EVERYONE who worked has had a hand in the re-birth of our charity activity.

IAA approved year-before-last a formula for creating a balance in our financial responsibilities that would begin to support once again the charity side of IAA. Hugh monies for charity? No, but it's a start in the right direction. Recently (see picture above) IAA members presented a program "Cultural Showcase – ITALY" at several public libraries. Here, IAA member, Lou Perry, presents the Iroquois Library personnel with a check for \$200 for the improvement of "Italy" resources in their library. A similar amount went to the Southwest Regional Library, and a \$100 donation went to the library at St. Joseph's Children's Home. Thanks to Marty Hanka for working with the libraries on media selection. Monies have started to accumulate for scholarships. As our volunteers continue to support our efforts with their time and energies, the monies for charity and other activities should grow as well....**THANK-YOU VOLUNTEERS.**

Just think what would Santa do without volunteers:.....To deliver his gifts in one night, Santa would have to make 822.6 visits per second, sleighing at 3,000 times the speed of sound.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

YA DON'T SAY ?

* The Holy Roman Emperor Charles V was once asked which languages he typically used. "I speak Spanish to God," he explained, "Italian to women, French to men - and German to my horse."

* Leonardo da Vinci - "I have offended God and mankind because my work did not reach the quality it should have".