

ITALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

visit: www.LouisvilleItalians.com

editor - lou perry

giugno (june) 2007

membership - mary perry

kentuckiana

Il Messaggio dal Presidente

The IAA has been the principal organization to represent the Italian heritage in the Louisville area for over thirty years. The focus of the organization has always been on the family. However, if we are to continue our mission, **we must continue to grow**. The growth must be in a number of areas. We must grow in our **community visibility** - more people in the community must be aware of who we are and what we do. Our visibility has increased in the community and the region though the development of the IAA web site, www.LouisvilleItalians.com, and FESTA ITALIANA. As evidence of growth in these areas, there has been an increase in the visits to the web site and attendance at the festival over the years. We must grow in the nature of our **organizational activities** - step out of our comfort zone in terms of what we do as an organization. As evidence of the growth in this area, in addition to a wider range in the nature of our monthly club gatherings, there has been an increase in the number of requests by other community organizations to have the IAA represent the Italian heritage at their cultural events. Finally, we must **grow as an organization - increase the size and nature of our membership**. This is the area where I feel we have the most pressing need for growth. In this regard, I want to encourage all IAA members to discuss the IAA with their family and friends who are Italians or who are not Italian but like those things that are Italian, such as the food (Who does not like Italian food?), the music, and fashion, to attend our monthly events to **experience the "joy of being with Italians."** More importantly, I want to encourage all of the IAA members to invite their **children and grandchildren** to become more involve in our family-friendly organization. Without this next generation of IAA membership, our organization will not be able to keep alive the heritage, contributions to the community, and memories of all of those local Italians who came before us. So, do not let our heritage, community contributions, and ancestors be forgotten. Get your children and grandchildren, as well as your friends and relatives, more involved in the IAA today. You can start by bringing them to our monthly gatherings. So, as always, I will close by saying I look forward to seeing all of you, your children and grandchildren, and your friends and relatives at our next IAA event ("Pallino Primo" bocce mixer for spectators and participants; see p.3)

Warmest regards,
Bernardo J. Carducci,
IAA President

Next Event

"PALLINO PRIMO" – June 20
(see p. 3 for details)

ITALIAN RIVIERA - WEST

VENTIMIGLIA is the Italian Riviera border city with the French Riviera. The A10 Autostrada seamlessly joins the two areas. Travelers who have had the good fortune of experiencing the luxurious warmth and crystal clear blue waters of the Italian Riviera attest that it is equally, if not more beautiful, than its famous neighbor - the French Riviera - due in part to the absence of massive tourist crowds.



CERVO is an ancient town and comune of the Italian Riviera



CASINO' SANREMO

The Italian Riviera is centered on the port of Genoa, which divides it into two main sections: the **Riviera di Ponente**, extending westwards from Genoa to the French border; and the **Riviera di Levante** between Genoa and Capo Corva, Portofino, and Cinque Terre. It is famous for its particularly mild climate which, together with the charm of its old fishing ports and the beauty of its landscape, has made it a popular destination for travelers and tourists since the time of Byron and Shelley.

The part of the **Riviera di Ponente** centered on Savona, is called the "Riviera delle Palme" (the Riviera of palms); the part centered on Sanremo, is called the "Riviera dei Fiori", after the long-established flower growing industry.

ANNUAL EVENTS IN ITALY

CORPUS DOMINI (Corpus Christi) – the Sunday which is 60 days after Easter - National Holiday. This is a pretty important holiday in Italy. This purely religious holiday was born in a little town called Bolsena, a small town north of Rome, in 1263. A visiting priest doubted whether the wine and bread used during mass really transformed into the body of Christ. During this fateful Mass in Bolsena. at the consecration as the priest said, "This is My Body," the Host (a statue of Christ) began to bleed profusely. The priest took his robes and wrapped up the bleeding Host and some of the blood fell on the marble floor in front of the altar. He immediately took the story of what had happened, his bloodstained robes and some of the marble upon which had fallen blood, to Pope Urban IV who was in nearby Orvieto at the time. The Pope declared that a Eucharistic miracle had occurred which dispelled the heresy of Berengarianism and also created a new feast, the Feast of Corpus Christi, to commemorate the Miracle. The bloodstained marble tiles are kept in Bolsena, in the church that was built in 1290 to house them, and the bloodstained robes in Orvieto.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF THE WELL - Fasano (PUGLIA) - 2nd & 3rd weekends; a historical commemoration of the victory of this town over an invasion by the Turks on June 2nd, 1678. The residents thank la Madonna for their victory due to her miraculous intervention. There are long, historically costumed parades that runs from neighboring towns Pozzo Guacito and Pezze di Greco to arrive at the sanctuary in Fasano where ceremonies take place. Weekends are filled with activities that include all the traditional celebratory accompaniments of music, parades, wine and food.

FESTA DEL MUZZUNI - (Muzzuni are special, ancient vases that have a silk cloth draped over them and are carried at the head of each parade that the neighborhoods put on); Alcara Li Fusi (Sicily) - June 24 - this is the oldest celebration of this type in Italy. It's a pagan rite that honors Dementra, the goddess of the earth and of its fertility. Because she is the protectress of fertility, it is also a day of celebration for those who are trying to have a child. The celebration is very unique and spellbinding.

MERCATO DELLE GAITE - third week of June; Bevagna (Umbria) - the neighborhoods dress up and compete one another in physical competitions, cook-offs, archery demonstrations of skill and many other good-natured trials. There are non-stop authentic demonstrations of how ancient craftsmen worked with their materials - iron workers, woodcarving, sewing, instrument creation.



BIRTHDAYS: Giugno (June) 2007

COMPLEANNO FELICE !!

Brackett, Jules 6-3
 Bukowski, Maria 6-17
 Pulzone, Kat 6-11
 Smith, Elena 6-13
 Spooner, Judith 6-3
 Nethery, Kristin (Terry) 6-20
 Castagno, Rosalie 6-4

FLOWER: Rose, Honeysuckle; **BIRTHSTONE:** Pearl, Moonstone, Alexandrite (meaning Health and Longevity)

THE "COLPO D'ARIA"

The dreadful "colpo d'aria" (draft or blow of air) is a belief that Italians consider extremely dangerous; causing anything from a simple cold to paralysis that could last a few days. People have claimed to have suffered a day-long stiffening of one side of their face and neck, due to riding in a fast-moving car with the window down and air blowing in on them.

HOW TO "CREATE A DAY"

A truly "National" day is literally an act of Congress and takes a lot of work. The first step is to contact your local congress person. Once you have their attention, you have to create the proposal and hopefully it will get onto the congressional agenda and the process. If you are intent on doing it and have the patience, it can be done. Likewise, "days" are created by companies, special interest groups, local governments, sports teams, and others by simply declaring it so. Included in this category are card companies; it seems some of these "days" are created because there isn't anything going on a particular day, and the card companies need something for every day of the year.

Need an excuse to party in JUNE:

Daily: 1 Dare Day, Flip a Coin Day, & National Doughnut Day; 2 National Bubba Day & National Rocky Road Day; 3 Repeat Day (I said "Repeat Day"); 4 Applesauce Cake Day, Hug Your Cat Day; & Old Maid's Day, 5 World Environment Day; 6 National Gardening Exercise Day & National Yo-Yo Day; 7 National Chocolate Ice Cream Day; 8 Best Friends Day & Name Your Poison Day; 9 Donald Duck Day; 10 Iced Tea Day; 11 Hug Holiday; 12 Red Rose Day; 13 Sewing Machine Day; **14 Flag Day;** 15 Smile Power Day; 16 Fresh Veggies Day & National Hollerin' Contest Day; 17 Eat Your Vegetables Day & World Juggler's Day; 18 Go Fishing Day & International Panic Day; 19 National Splurge Day & World Sauntering Day; 20 Ice Cream Soda Day; 21 Finally Summer Day & Go Skate Day; 22 National Chocolate Eclair Day; 23 National Columnists Day & National Pink Day; 23 Take Your Dog to Work Day; 24 Swim a Lap Day; 25 Log Cabin Day; 25 National Catfish Day; 26 Beautician's Day & Forgiveness Day; 27 Paul Bunyan Day & Sun Glasses Day; 28 Insurance Awareness Day; 29 Camera Day; 29 Waffle Iron Day; 30 Meteor Day.

Che Passa! (What's Happening)

IAA - "PALLINO PRIMO"

Join in the first annual bocce mixer for spectators and participants. IAA members and guests will via for:
1. ancestral region supremacy; 2. team honors, and 3. battle-of-the-sexes.... Wednesday, June 20 at 6:30pm on the bocce court at Melillo's – 829 East Market Street;

Participants will have the opportunity to get on a team (2 to 4 players) to represent their ancestral region (my Calabria team should have no problem with the competition)..... **Viva Calabria**. Others can via for friendly team honors; and the third category will pit the superior males against the "ladies". **Spectators** will enjoy these "games" as much as the participants. Grab a court-side table with a little wine & food and enjoy the friendly competition..... food options - off the menu.

If you should happen to get your team (region, friends, sex) together before the 20th, call Lou Perry at 231-7702 or email L4Perri@insightbb.com to get on the schedule.

AMALFI COAST

A DRIVER'S DREAM ...or NIGHTMARE??

You may wish to drive your car to the Amalfi Coast and navigate your way around its many villages. For those who haven't visited the area known as the famed Amalfi Drive (S.S. 163), it's filled with tour buses, cars and scooters all fighting for space on hairpin turns along cliffs high above the sea. Yet every corner seems to reveal an even more stunning view of the ocean, the villages, the rows of lemon trees and even the clouds above. Should **YOU** rent a car to explore this area? Here are some things to consider: * **Driving Experience and the Desire for Adventure:** Some don't mind driving in Italy; they've done it numerous times, but some have claimed that drivers in Italy are crazy. They see the lines in the road and speed limits as mere suggestions and are incredibly impatient. On the Amalfi Drive, the road is so narrow that special traffic cops must stop traffic to allow huge tour buses to pass, the twists and turns require quick reflexes and when it is raining, traffic can really back up. ***Cost:** When driving along the Amalfi Coast, it is easier to do so in an automatic car (lots of shifting in a manual). But an automatic is also much more expensive, then there is the expensive petro. Taking the train to Naples and then switching to a smaller one for the Naples to Sorrento journey and then taking the bus to all of the cities along the coast is far cheaper (but lugging all your bags, ugh); ***Car Size/Luggage:** You will want to rent the smallest car you can (all the easier for those tight squeezes), but make sure it will hold you, your fellow travelers AND all of your luggage; and ***Parking:** Plan to pay for it and it can be at a premium.

MORRA

Have you ever been to an Italian gathering and seen a group of intelligent, mature men yelling and throwing fingers at each other? They were enjoying a game of **morra**, which just so happens to be a game that can be traced back to Roman times. At first you might think that they were playing Rock Paper Scissors.



Most know how to play this game, but to watch **morra**, it is not quite as easy as Rock Paper Scissors. In R*P*S you just have three choices In morra you have more than three choices. The more you

watch the more you learn how to play and quickly you too are able to participate in a game of **morra**. How, you say? Just follow along:

Object of the Game Guess the total number of fingers extended by you and your opponent.

How to Play:

1. Determine how many rounds a person must guess correctly in order to win the match.
2. Start the game by having the two players face each other.
3. The hand that you are using generally remains visible to your opponent and the other hand is usually placed to the side or behind your back.
4. Either at the count of three or some sort of predetermined signal the players extend their fingers and shout out a number from zero to ten.
5. The fingers are counted to see if anyone guessed correctly.
6. If one of the players guessed correctly they win the round.
7. If no one guessed the right number then neither player wins that round. If they both guessed the correct answer, then it is a draw and neither gets credit for winning the round.
8. Play continues until one of the players reaches the number needed to win the match.

Note: Zero is represented by extending your hand and making a fist.

The rules for this game are not that difficult. All you need is to find someone to play against and you are ready to go. The next time you are at an IAA gathering or family outing you won't have to sit and watch. You will be able to join in on the fun and show them just how good you are.

For many, **morra** was more than just a game. It was an opportunity to learn yet another Italian tradition. By taking an interest and learning how to play we help to keep the traditions of our heritage from being forgotten.

DERBY FEST-A-VILLE BOCCE OFFICIALS

After rigorous training, the following became certified "Bocce Officials":

Angelo Vaccaro
Joe Ward
Todd Metallo
Walt & Vicky Carpenter
Ann Moir
Sally Spagnolo
Justin Gilbert

Paul Castagno
Phil Castagno
Geoff & Celeste Verderosa
Bernie Carducci
John & Theo Beatty
Marty Hanka

Mille grazie - for their time and efforts to provide the Derby Festival event with a taste of our culture & heritage - bocce. Rain (most of the time) or shine; we were there.

MOVIES & POPCORN

The Best of Youth

(Italian w/ English subtitles)

The Best of Youth covers thirty-seven years through the eyes of two Italian brothers, Nicola and Matteo Carati, and the people who influence their lives. From the Florence flood in the 60s, the Mafia crackdown in the 80s to the Fiat layoffs in 2000. Many feel that it is absolutely the very best riveting family saga they have ever watched ... excellent acting, directing, cinematology, music, and scenery.

ITALIAN AMERICANS

Italian influence on American history can be traced back to "roots in the boot" and can relate to many contributions in a variety of the arts and sciences. This includes:

Leonard Riggio while at NYU, he got a job at the campus bookstore and rose up in the ranks. He later started his own college book store, and in 1971 purchased Barnes & Noble, a small textbook store that the company continued to maintain in that function. Over time he expanded the business, and eventually spun Barnes & Noble out of that college bookstore chain and into the largest specialty retailer in the world; the company operated 840 stores in 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

Peter Pace, General; is Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; (b. November 5 1945 in Brooklyn, New York to Italian-American parents). Gen. Pace broke down in tears talking about his Italian immigrant father and the opportunities his parents gave their children by coming to the United States at a hearing to discuss the contributions immigrants have made to the armed forces.

Ashley Judd, actor; (aka Ashley Tyler Ciminella, b. 1968); father: Michael Ciminella, Jr (marketing analyst for the horseracing industry); mother: Naomi Judd (country singer); half-sister Wynonna Judd.

ITALIAN LESSIONS – Dialect of Luigi

At The Table

Buon appetito (have a good meal): (boo-on app-èt-it-oh).

Complimenti alla cuoca (compliments to the cook): (com-plee-men-tee alla coo-oka).

Alla Salute!: (alla as-loo-the) the Italian toast, like saying "Cheers!"

Apparecchia la tavola (set the table): (ah-ppah-re-kee-ah la at-vo-lah)

Taglia il pane (cut the bread): (at-liah il pa-neh)

Bistecca al sangue (rare steak), bistecca ben cotta (well cooked steak): (bee-steh-ka al san-goo-eh) (bee-steh-ka ben koh-ttah).

At the Restaurant

Antipasto (the appetizer): (an-tee-pah-stoh).

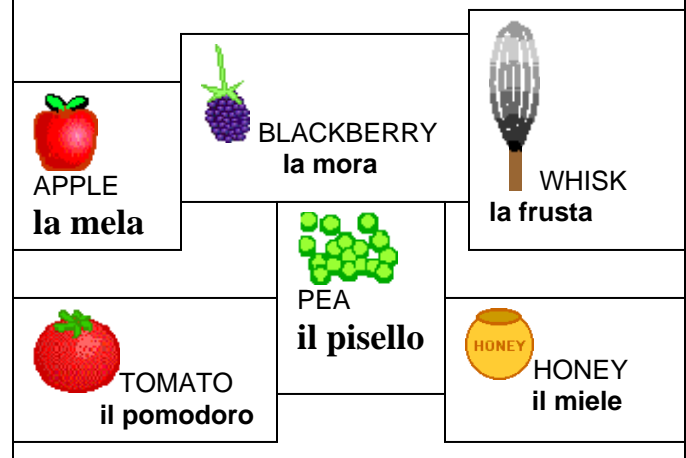
Enoteca (the wine shop): (eh-noh-the-ka).

Cameriere, il conto per favore (waiter, please the bill): (ka-meh-ree-eh-reh il kon-toh per fa-voh-reh).

Coperto (the cover): (ko-per-toh) is the cost of the service and of the bread. This is a traditional habit of all Italian Restaurants and you will always find it on Italian menus.

Mancia (the tip): (man-cee-ah).

Saying **E' una buona forchetta** (literally he is a good fork): (éh oo-na boo-oh-na fork-eh-ttah) an expression used to describe a gourmet, someone who enjoys eating well and appreciates high quality dishes....example – Bernie is a "good folk".



Remember

Il nostro meccanico in Napoli ha detto "non potrei riparare i suoi freni, dunque ho fatto il suo corno più forte"

Our mechanic in Naples said "I couldn't repair your brakes, so I made your horn louder"

Italians also speak with their hands.

