

ITALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

visit: www.LouisvilleItalians.com

editor - lou perry

ottobre 2007

membership - mary perry

kentuckiana

Messaggio di Editor

IAA will provide the highlights and happenings of FESTA ITALIANA in the November issue. However, we would all like to THANK the volunteers who stepped forward to help make this FESTA a success. Each and every volunteer contributed significantly to activities and events....

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

and a special THANKS to Bernardo Carducci - FESTA chair; and Mary Perry – Finances chair; Bob Scorsolini – Beer & Wine chair; Michele Melillo – Pastry chair; and Lou Perry – Ticket Booth & Gatekeeper chair.

Next Event
CULTURAL SHOWCASE – ITALY
Iroquois Library – Oct. 20
see p. 3 for details

VESPARADOS OF LOUISVILLE

One of the greatest things about FESTA ITALIAN is that you get to meet many interesting people and hear of their activities. One such couple shared their adventures as members of the local Vespa motor-scooter group – properly titled, VESPARADOS.....



.... the Louisville Vesparados are out there and trying to show just how much fun life on a scooter is!

The **Vespa** is a line of motor scooters that was first manufactured in **Pontedera, Italy** in 1946 by Piaggio & Co. S.p.A. Piaggio continues to manufacture the Vespa today. Piaggio revolutionized the two-wheel industry with the Vespa, developed the first globally successful scooter, and continues to influence the scooter industry.

"Sembra una vespa!" ("It reminds me of a wasp!") exclaimed president Enrico Piaggio when he first laid eyes on what would become the most successful scooter of all time. The name stuck.

HALLOWEEN IN ITALY

Italians have taken a shine to ghosts, ghouls and mummies — in just a few years, the imported festival for Halloween has taken the Bel Paese by storm. Italians are expected to spend 250 million euro in parties, costumes and gadgets this year. "Halloween is starting to overshadow carnival; more people are choosing to throw parties on Oct. 31, it's more trendy, more original compared to the usual costume party for carnival."



In Italy they make cakes in the shape of beans. These cakes are called **Beans of the Dead**. In Southern Italy families prepare a special feast for the souls of the departed on All Souls' Day. The families would set the table with a bountiful meal. Then they would all go to church to pray for the souls of the deceased. They stayed there all day, leaving their home open so that the spirits could enter and enjoy the feast. When the family came home to find that their offerings hadn't been consumed it meant that the spirits disapproved of their home and would work evil against them during the coming year. In Italy November 1 has become a public holiday. On All Saints' Day Catholics attend church services in honor of the saints, the martyrs and those who have died for the Catholic faith. People may also visit their family's graves to beautify them with wreaths and small lanterns. Sometimes a mass is said at the gravesite and the grave sprinkled with holy water. On November 2 or All Souls' Day, Catholics attend a special Requiem masses, where they remember those who may be close to them that have died. Prayers for the dead are said and votive candles are lit to honor their memory.



Il trucco o Tratta

Trick or Treat

ANNUAL EVENTS IN ITALY

VENICE BIENNALE OF CONTEMPORARY ART - this is undoubtedly Italy's most important international exhibition of contemporary art; (it happens only on the odd years), it features more than 100 artists from 60 or so countries that exhibit their art, statues, paintings, photos and musical performances in 10,000 square feet of space in the usually off-limits Arsenale. In addition to the 19 exhibits that will be displayed in the Arsenale, there will be 31 exhibitors at the pavilions within the gardens and 10 or so others at various important sites throughout the city. The displays are always gargantuan, outrageous, beautiful, and unique. The event should not be missed by anyone even remotely interested in art or music. **Date:** all of October.

ITALIAN JOB - a charity fund-raising jaunt across Europe from Brighton (UK) through the Trentino region of northern Italy, down to the Liguria region of the Italian Riviera and back. It is named and themed after a 1969 Michael Caine movie in which these drivers (jobbers) steal wine (the booty) to bring back to England to be auctioned off. The events attracts over 2,000 drivers that drive more than 2,000 miles across some of the most spectacular scenery of Europe in more than 100 types of 'Minis' (antique, minuscule cars barely more powerful than lawn-mowers). They visit a minimum of five European countries, staying in Italy, Germany, and France to raise money for several important children's charities. Drivers must visit vineyards and cantinas on the way to collect bottles of wine that they laden their tiny, struggling vehicles down with for the long return trip. **Date:** October 26 through November 4.

TRUFFLE FAIR - Moncalvo (ASTI) - with truffle contest. A golden truffle trophy is awarded to the finder of the heaviest truffle. This is a good event to attend for those who want to learn the art of truffle hunting. **Date:** 2nd and 3rd Sundays.

FESTA della SAPA - Rosora (ANCONA) - the theme of this festival revolves around the thick and sweetly fragrant condiment that is obtained by slowly boiling red grapes in a copper cauldron. Sapa is used in traditional cakes and cookies, on polenta, for marinating meats and as part of a dressing (rather like balsamic vinegar). **Date:** the third weekend.

INTERNATIONAL NAUTICAL SHOW - Genova - this is one of the most important boat and accessory expositions in the world since its inception in 1960. Among its 1,400 exhibitors is represented every nautical theme and subject from 'tall sailing ships from the 1800s' (that are anchored in the harbor that can be toured) to grand yachts that can be tried and purchased to skiffs, rafts, canoes, rowboats, kayaks, gondolas, clothing, add-ons, accessories and anything else related to floating on water that you can think of. Manufacturers come from all over the world to show off their best at this show. Events come to a close with the 'Millevele' sailboat regatta on the closing Saturday. **Date:** Normally, from the 3rd thru 4th weekend.

EXPOSIZIONE della ZUCCE - Forni di Sopra (UDINE) - pumpkins and pumpkin products are celebrated here. There are competitions to determine the longest, the strangest, the heaviest and the biggest pumpkins as well as limitless sampling of delicious pumpkin derivatives that have been prepared for this festival. There is also a recent move to incorporate Halloween themes and the promoters invite carved pumpkins to attend. **Date:** the 1st weekend.

BIRTHDAYS: OTTOBRE 2007

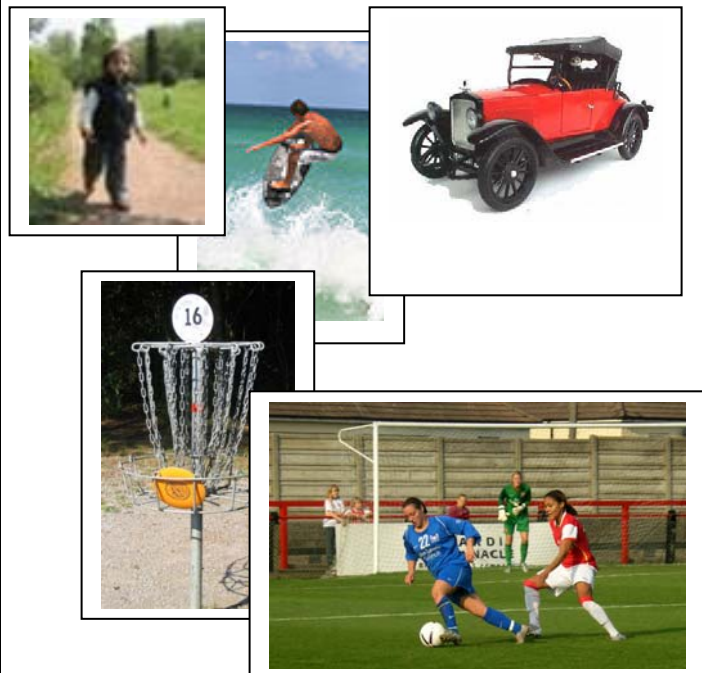
COMPLEANNO FELICE !!



Perry, Alex 10/01
 *Castagno, Paul 10/02
 DeVuono, Lewis 10/18
 Ochsner, Angela 10/20
 Vaccaro, Del Marie 10/13
 Roccisano, Francesco 10/07
 Roccisano, Sebastian 10/22
 * IAA Board Member

LEISURE LIFE IN ITALY

LEISURE is one's discretionary time spent in non-compulsory activities, time spent away from cares and toils. Because leisure time is free from compulsory activities such as employment, running a business, household chores, education and other such day-to-day stresses, it is often referred to as "free time".



LITERARY GROWTH – ITALY

The rise of a literature, both written and spoken, in the vernacular began in the 13th century; a period of great political and civil revival in the Italian cities and a lively renaissance in art and culture after the difficult centuries following barbarian domination. There were a great number of trends in 13th-century literature: religious poetry (which thrived in Umbria partly as a result of the activity of Saint Francis, especially with the work of Jacopone da Todi); poetry made popular; the comic-satirical poetry of [Cecco Angiolieri](#); chivalric literature; didactic and moralistic prose in which [Brunetto Latini](#) was prominent, and, the most widespread, love poetry.

Che Passa!

(What's Happening)

CULTURAL SHOWCASE – ITALY

Iroquois Library, 1:00pm; 601 Woodlawn (574-1701)
 Saturday, October 20; 1:00pm – 2:30pm + -. IAA members will share information about Italy; play some Italian music; provide kids with related coloring pages; experiment with the Italian language; demonstrations on: morra, tarantella, and bocce. IAA will cap the visit to the Iroquois library with a donation for more Italian education and cultural resources.

New Castle, Pennsylvania

A civil engineer resurveying lands which had been reserved for veterans of the Revolutionary War discovered that the original survey had neglected to stake out approximately 50 acres at the confluence of the Shenango River and the Neshannock Creek. Claiming the land for himself, he laid out what was to become the town of New Castle about 50 miles northwest of Pittsburgh.

There are several interesting bits of information about New Castle: 1) it is the birthplace of **Warner Bros** studios and 2). it is the headquarters of **Zambelli** Fireworks Internationale, which was founded in New Castle and is one of the world's largest fireworks and pyrotechnics companies. The city is regarded as the "Fireworks Capital of America", and recently opened Zambelli Plaza (actually a park with a light-up fireworks display).



Noted high school graduates are: **Louise Treadwell**, Actress; married to actor Spencer Tracy; **Dr. Thomas Francis, Jr.**, coordinated the field trial for the polio vaccine with mentor Dr. Jonas Salk; **Edmond Hamilton**, Prolific science-fiction writer, who married the famous science-fiction writer, Leigh Brackett; writer of D.C. comics "Superman" and "Batman" series; IAA member, **Dorreen DeRosa Beck**; **Forrest Raffel**, Co-founder, Arby's; **Philomena Sparano Jurey**, Voice of America division editor-in-chief; author, "Bella Giornata and Elbow Grease" ; **Susan Levine Wittenberg Liebeler**, Chair, U.S. International Trade Commission; **Israel L. Gaither**, National commander, Salvation Army; **Ludwig Picarro**, Senior vice president, Zurich American Insurance Group who was killed in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center's twin towers; **Scott Lawton**, Orchestra conductor of the German Film Orchestra in Berlin; **Ira**
 (Con't next column)

Chiseling with Fear

Greg and Gioia were walking down Via Veneto after a Halloween party and decided to take a shortcut through the cemetery just for laughs. Right in the middle of the cemetery, they were startled by a tap-tap-tapping noise coming from the misty shadows. Trembling with fear, they found an old man with a hammer and chisel, chipping away at one of the headstones. "Holy cow, Mister," Greg said after catching his breath. "You scared Gioia & I half to death -- we thought you were a ghost! What are you doing working here so late at night?"



"My family is such fools!" the old man grumbled. "They misspelled my name and here I have to correct it.

New Castle (cont)

D. Sankey, gospel singer and composer; **Matthew Finamore**, coined the phrase "Pardon My French"; and also, **Bob Hope** began his career as a comedian; and finally, the awesome:

MONSTER UNIVERSITY

www.HauntedSummitviewDrive.com

New Castle's major ancestry groups include: Italian - 27%, German - 17%, & Irish - 13%. "Immigrant recruiters" traveled to Ellis Island to seek laborers made-up of mostly Italian immigrants getting off the boat. By the turn of the century, New Castle was one of the fastest growing cities in the country as it became the tin plate capital of the world. The tin plate industry marked a turn in the prosperity of New Castle. New Castle's population swelled from 11,600 in 1890 to 28,339 in 1900, and to 38,280 in 1910, as immigrants flocked to the city to work in the mills. In the 1920's, New Castle enjoyed its greatest prosperity. The landscape of the city was transformed with the building of many beautiful structures, some of which still stand such as The Cathedral and St. Mary's Church.

"Lamborghini Gallardo"

in use by the Italian State Police

If you get ticketed at least it was with the help of a Lamborghini



THE SEVEN HILLS OF ROME

The hills are not really isolated hills. Rather they are a series of ridges above the floodplain of the Tiber River. The slopes of the hills and ridges were much steeper in ancient times both natural action and human intervention have smoothed the contours and softened the edges.



Palatine Hill (Palatium = Palatino) The central hill and where the city of Rome was founded by Romulus according to legend. The myth is corroborated by archaeological finds from the iron age (10th century through 8th century BC) of huts and primitive defensive walls around the hill. The Palatine remained the center of power throughout the history of Rome.

Capitoline Hill (Capitolium = Campidoglio) This hill was very steep and soon became the fortified stronghold of Rome. When the Gauls sacked Rome in 390 BCE, only the Capitol held out today this is the Piazza di Campidoglio.

Quirinal Hill (Quirinalis = Quirinale) The Quirinal is the northernmost of four spurs of the high ground east of the Tiber that lay within the limits of Republican Rome.

Viminal Hill (Viminalis = Viminale) The Viminal is a smaller ridge between the Quirinal Hill and the Esquiline Hill.

Esquiline Hill (Esquiliae = Esquilino) The Esquiline is one of the largest hills and was connected to the Palatine Hill via a ridge called the Velia, which was all but leveled in late antiquity.

Caelian Hill (Caelius = Celio) The Caelian Hill is the southernmost of the four large spurs. It stretches from the area of San Giovanni in Laterano to the Colosseum.

Aventine Hill (Aventinus = Aventino) The Aventine Hill is detached from the other hills, and separated from the Palatine Hill by the valley of the Circus Maximus.

Remembering the seven hills (a mnemonic):

Can Queen Victoria eat cold apple pie? (The first letters correspond to: Capitoline, Quirinal, Viminal, Esquiline, Caelian, Aventine, and Palatine)

ITALIAN LESSIONS – Dialect of Luigi

ORDINAL NUMBERS

As suggested by their name, ordinal numbers (1st, 2nd, 3rd... etc.) are used for indicating orders or ranks. In Italian, they have specific forms from 1 to 10, while all the following ones use one same suffix, so they are quite easy to learn. Unlike cardinal numbers, though, ordinals behave like an adjective, therefore they can have both a masculine and a feminine gender, in both singular and plural forms (all of them are regular).

Also English sounds are shown

ORDINAL NUMBERS FROM 1st TO 9th

primo	<i>prymoh</i>	<i>first</i>
secondo	<i>sehkohndoh</i>	<i>second</i>
terzo	<i>tehrtzo</i>	<i>third</i>
quarto	<i>quahrtoh</i>	<i>fourth</i>
quinto	<i>quihntoh</i>	<i>fifth</i>
sesto	<i>sehstoh</i>	<i>sixth</i>
settimo	<i>seh'tymoh</i>	<i>seventh</i>
ottavo	<i>oh'ttahvoh</i>	<i>eighth</i>
nono	<i>nohnoh</i>	<i>ninth</i>
decimo	<i>dehchimoh</i>	<i>tenth</i>

The modern way to indicate ordinal numbers is to add their last vowel to the number, in "superscript" style:

1^o (primo) or 1^a (prima)
9^o (nono) or 9^a (nona)
17^o (diciassettesimo) or 17^a (diciassettesima)
 etc. etc...

Just like adjectives, they can also have the plural form:

8ⁱ (ottavi) or 8^e (ottave)
22ⁱ (ventiduesimi) or 22^e (ventiduesime)
 etc. etc...

Eventually, a circumflex accent (^) may replace any of the superscript vowels:

1[^] = 1^o, 1^a, 1ⁱ, 1^e
25[^] = 25^o, 25^a, 25ⁱ, 25^e
130[^] = 130^o, 130^a, 130ⁱ, 130^e
 etc. etc.

Remember

Se lei ha mangiato la pasta e l'antipasto, lei avrebbe fame tuttavia?

If you ate pasta and antipasto, would you still be hungry?

Italians also speak with their hands



UNSOLVED MYSTERIES

Franco didn't want Roz and little Francesca to know this, but Franco was walking home alone one night when he heard a "BUMP....BUMP....BUMP..." behind him. Walking faster, he looked back, making out an image of an upright coffin banging its way down the middle of Via Roma towards him...."BUMP...BUMP...BUMP..."

Franco began to run toward his home, and the coffin bounced after him faster....faster...BUMP BUMP BUMP. He ran up to his door, fumbled with his keys, opened the door, rushed in, and locked it behind him. The coffin crashed through his door, with the lid of the coffin clapping BUMP...BUMP...BUMP... on the heels of the terrified Franco. He rushed upstairs to the bathroom and locked himself in, heart pounding. With a CRASH, the coffin broke down the door, coming slowly toward him. Franco, while screaming, reached for something, anything....all he can find was a box of cough drops which he hurled at the coffin...and suddenly "the coffin stops."

FASHION IN ROME

Black and purple dominate the shop windows in Rome this December. These bold, rich colors of the season transcend the fabulous Italian clothing lines.....as seen in the fashionable shops in the Spanish Steps area and Via del Corso. Black and purple are the way for women to look chic this winter season. Dark, bold black and purple sweaters, long, and running over the hips down the thighs, a coupled with matching leggings or bold patterns, are hot this year

The sweaters of the season feature large cowls draped below the neckline. The look becomes even more enticing when the hips are graced with a wide belt. The belt reflects one's personality and sets the mood. It isn't just the black and purple, but red and white sweaters are pretty too, with either cowl neckline or v - neck styles. The hot looks for this season are the big long sweaters - a fashion item that "every" woman can wear regardless of her physique. It is practical, it's comfortable, and it's fun and fashionable. The look is genuine and its "in".

For men Business suits today are a form of corporate armor. But modern day suits are sometimes seen as too stuffy, especially after the dotcom boom. A somewhat relaxed work fashion is now acceptable, but this trend has not been able to displace the suit from its place in a man's work wardrobe. An Italian suit is a secretive effort. Even in cases where a computer teams up with a tailor to create a suit, there is that added finesse each Italian suit maker has its own secrets to quality which it guards jealously, much like an Italian nonna with her treasured recipes.

VIVA OPERA ITALIA

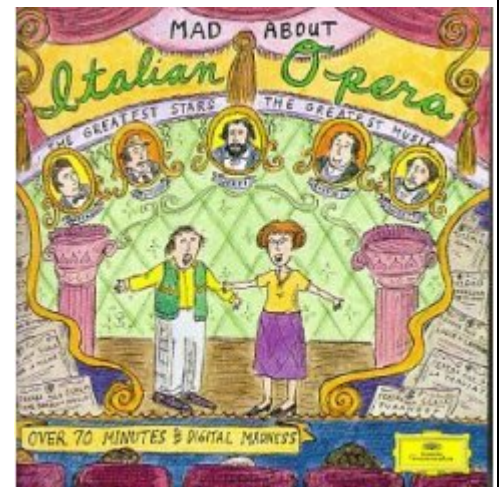
On Saturday, October 13, Barnes and Noble is collaborating with Kentucky Opera to present a Book Fair and a celebration of Italian Opera. All afternoon, various groups will present aspects of the Italian opera and culture. There will be book signings, Italian language and culture presentations, and Kentucky Opera performances. These will be presented at the Barnes and Noble stores at The Summit (call 426-0255 for the complete schedule) and on Hurstbourne Lane (call 327-0410 for a schedule) from 12 noon to 4:00 PM.

ITALIAN OPERA

May 1 - Aug 30, 2008

Opera-lovers have joined **Smithsonian Journeys** (Smithsonian Institution) in recent years for exciting journeys to celebrate the newly restored La Scala and La Fenice theatres. In 2008, as in the past, you'll watch celebrated sopranos and tenors sing beloved arias on historic Italian stages and you'll listen to the masterpieces of Verdi, Rossini, or other top composers of opera. Performance schedules for Italy's 2008 opera season become available in late 2007. With opera expert Fred Plotkin by your side, you'll delve into the history, production, and passion of Italian opera.....adding immensely to your appreciation of your destination. You'll also enjoy superb accommodations at select properties and the finest regional cuisine.

CDs:
Mad About Italian Opera
by Gaetano Donizetti,
Pietro Mascagni,
Giacomo Puccini,
Gioachino Rossini, and
Giuseppe Verdi.



Also available are:

The Best of Italian Opera
Mad about The Classics
The Most Famous Opera Arias
The Most Famous Opera Duets

The Meaning of *La Traviata*

'Traviata' is the past participle of the verb *traviare* meaning 'to go astray'. The word 'traviata' is usually translated in operatic literature as 'the wayward one' or 'the straying one'. In Act III of Verdi's "*La Traviata*", Violetta sings, 'Addio del passato' or 'Farewell to the past'.