



ITALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

visit: www.LouisvilleItalians.com

Editor - Mary Perry

November 2011

Membership - Mary Perry

Kentucky – Indiana

Messaggio del Presidente

Dear IAA Members

The IAA has established a tradition of monthly gatherings that feature “food, fun, and family” as a way of getting together to celebrate and promote our Italian heritage in the area. However, as the words in the “I am of Italian Descent” piece featured in the Italian Heritage section of the newsletter remind us, the contributions of individuals of Italian descent to our country run long and deep. As you read these words, I hope you will not only experience a sense of pride but also be inspired to share these words with your children, grandchildren, and other members of your family so that they too will know the valuable contributions made by individuals of Italian descent. I hope you will also consider making a copy of this information and posting it on your refrigerator door, next to your computer screen, or at other places you might see frequently throughout your day as reminder of your Italian heritage. And, as I have said many times in the past, another simple way you can help to strengthen the pride you have in your Italian heritage is to attend the monthly gatherings of the IAA. This is especially true this month as the IAA will be hosting its annual Elections/Dinner Meeting at Clifton's Pizza on Wednesday, November 9th. The election meeting is our most important event each year because it is when we select those individuals who will serve on the board of directors. The board members are responsible for helping to select and implement our monthly gatherings and other activities designed to promote the IAA in the area. At the election meeting we will be seeking the nominations of IAA members who are willing to serve on the board of directors and help foster the presence of the IAA in the community. If you are interested in serving as a member of the board of directors, please feel free to contact me by phone at 502-432-3169 or E-mail at bcarducc@ius.edu or by contacting any of the other current board members by visiting the IAA web site at www.louisville.com.

In addition to conducting our election of board members, the annual IAA Elections/Dinner Meeting has also become known for its tradition of providing a fantastic dinner at a family-friendly price. More specifically, again this year, the dinner portion of the meeting will include an all-you-can-eat buffet featuring tossed salad, garlic breadsticks, stuffed mushrooms, chicken tetrazzini, and assorted pizzas for only \$10 (including tax and tip) per person! More information about the “2011 IAA Elections/Dinner Meeting” may be found in the *UNISCALI* (“Join Us”) feature of the newsletter. So, I hope you will attend this important event to not only help to determine those individuals who will lead the IAA next year but also to show your pride in your Italian heritage while you enjoy the company of many other individuals who share your sense of pride in “being of Italian descent.” I look forward to seeing you.

Warmest regards,
Bernardo J. Carducci,
President

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IAA 2011 Elections/Dinner Meeting November 9th at Clifton's Pizza

The IAA will be hosting its Elections/Dinner Meeting on Wednesday, November 9, 2011 at Clifton's Pizza, which is located at 2230 Frankfort Avenue. The event will begin with socializing from 6:30-7:00 p.m. At 7:00 p.m., we will have the elections portion of the meeting. Immediately following the elections, we will begin serving dinner. The menu for the dinner will include an all-you-can eat buffet of tossed salad, garlic bread sticks, stuffed mushrooms, chicken tetrazzini, and assorted pizzas. To ensure that we have enough food, an RSVP would be greatly appreciated by contacting Marty Hanka at mphanka@insightbb.com or 502-533-1453 or by Tuesday, November 8th by 5:00 p.m. Please contact Marty Hanka if you have any additional questions regarding this event.

Event: IAA Elections/Dinner Meeting

Date: November 9, 2011, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Where: Clifton's Pizza, 2230 Frankfort Avenue, 40206 (phone: 502-893-3730; www.cliftonspizza.com)

Price: \$10.00 (includes tax & tip) per person (price does not include alcoholic drinks)

RSVP: By Tuesday, November 8, 2011 5:00 p.m. to Marty Hanka by phone at 533-1453 or E-mail at mphanka@insightbb.com

Parking: Free parking on the street near the restaurant

Accessibility: Clifton's is handicap accessible

**IAA OCTOBER FUNDRAISER
AT ST. BONIFACE**

The IAA's evening of Italian Wine Tasting fundraiser to benefit the Nativity Academy at St. Boniface last month was enhanced by the efforts of these members of the IAA who volunteered at the event:

Sandy Francesconi
Ange & Del Marie Vaccaro
Madison Steele
Darin Francesconi
Lou Perry & Mary
Ann & Fred Moir
Bernardo J. Carducci

The IAA would also like to offer a special thanks to Charlie Francesconi for serving as the chairperson for this event.

Italian Heritage

I am not sure of the author of this passage, but a friend of mine sent it to me. I was so moved by it that I wanted to share it with others I thought might appreciate it.

Bernardo J. Carducci, President
IAA

I AM OF ITALIAN DESCENT

Next time you or your friends are watching a rerun of the Sopranos or the Jersey Shore, and they think Italian Americans are all about organized crime, remember this:

I am an Italian American. My roots are deep in an ancient soil, drenched by the Mediterranean sun, and watered by pure streams from snow capped mountains.

I am enriched by thousands of years of culture. My hands are those of the mason, the artist, the man of the soil.

My thoughts have been recounted in the annals of Rome, the poetry of Virgil, the creations of Dante, and the philosophy of Benedetto Croce.

I am an Italian-American, and from my ancient world, I first spanned the seas to the New World.
I am Cristoforo Colombo.

I am Giovanni Caboto known in American History as John Cabot, discoverer of the mainland of North America.

I am Amerigo Vespucci, who gave my name to the New World, "America."

First to sail on the Great Lakes in 1679, founder of the territory that became the State of Illinois, colonizer of Louisiana and Arkansas, I am Enrico Tonti.

I am Filippo Mazzei friend of Thomas Jefferson, and my thesis on the equality of man was written into the Bill of Rights.

I am William Paca (representative from Maryland), signer of the Declaration of Independence.

I am an Italian-American; I financed the Northwest Expedition of George Rogers Clark and accompanied him through the lands that would become Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan.

I am Colonel Francesco Vigo.

I mapped the Pacific from Mexico to Alaska and to the Philippines; I am Alessandro Malaspina.

I am Giacomo Belinimi, discoverer of the source of the Mississippi River in 1823.

I painted the Rotunda of the United States Capitol. They call me the Michelangelo of America. I am Constantino Brumidi.

In 1904, I founded in San Francisco, the Bank of Italy now known as the Bank of America , the largest financial institution in the world; I am A. P. Giannini.

I am Enrico Fermi, father of nuclear science in America.

I am Steve Geppi, founder of Diamond Comics, the largest distributorship of comics on the planet.

I am the first enlisted man to earn the Medal of Honor in World War II; I am John Basilone of New Jersey.

I am a West Point Graduate; I led NASA's Apollo Launch Team in launching America's Astronauts with Cmdr Neil Armstrong to become the first men on the Moon in 1969, as pledged by President John F. Kennedy in 1961; I am Rocco A. Petrone.

I am an Italian-American. I am the million strong thousands of whose names are enshrined in military cemeteries from Guadalcanal to the Rhine. I am the steel maker in Pittsburgh, the grower in the Imperial Valley of California, the textile designer in Manhattan, the movie maker in Hollywood, the homemaker and the breadwinner in over 10,000 communities.

I am an American without stint or reservation, loving this land as only one who understands history, its agonies and its triumphs can love and serve it.

I will not be told that my contribution is any less nor my role not as worthy as that of any other American.

I will stand in support of this nation's freedom and protect against all foes.

My heritage has dedicated me to this nation. I am proud of my heritage, and I shall remain worthy of it.

I am an Italian-American.

