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*The Newsletter of the
Lancaster Italian Cultural Society*



L'Osservatore Lancastriano

President's Message

Ciao Amici,

I hope you and your families had a wonderful and safe summer. "Dancing Under the Stars" and the LICS annual picnic were a lot of fun. It would be great if more people would attend in the future. We also need to increase our membership. Perhaps you could invite a family member or a friend to join our society.

I am very pleased that 21 people are taking Italian lessons. LICS is proud to have a teacher of Fiorella's talent. Maybe someday we can have meetings in Italian!

Our next **General Meeting** on **November 9th** will feature **Fred Rodger**, a well known artist, art educator and LICS member. He has been a speaker for past LICS meetings which were well attended. So, register early to enjoy Fred's presentation on the Italian Renaissance.

The **Christmas Party** will be held on **December 14th** at the Eden Resort. **Christopher Roda**, a 2013 PA Senior Idol winner, will be our featured performer. Chris will present a variety of selections, including Opera, Italian and Christmas. We are also pleased to have LICS member, DJ **Tony Grochowski**, who will play dance music throughout the event. Let's plan to get together and extend a **BUON NATALE E FELICE ANNO NUOVO!**

Sempre Amici,

Charlie

THIS IS THE EIGHTEENTH IN A SERIES ON THE REGIONS OF ITALY: VENETO

Veneto (Venetia) is most known for its capital and largest city, Venice (Venezia). The region is the fifth most populous in Italy and for centuries it ruled as one of the largest and wealthiest maritime empires.

Veneto is the 8th largest region and covers over 7,000 square miles of mountains, plains, coasts and hills.

The history of Veneto dates to the 1st millennium BC and a people known as the Euganei. But, in the 4th century, Greek influence entered and the Venetic culture began to grow. The Veneti allied with Rome as the Romans expanded and, during the Second Punic War, sent soldiers to fight with the Romans against Hannibal. From that point on, Roman influence increased among the Veneti people and, in 49 BC, Rome granted full citizenship to the Veneti. By the end of the 1st century AD, Latin became the official Venetic language.

Between the 2nd and 7th centuries AD, numerous barbarian invasions occurred in the region. By the middle of the 8th century, the Franks gained control until the 10th century when Veneto became a part of the Holy Roman Empire. In the interval, the city of Venice became an independent maritime Republic ruled by an elected leader called the "Doge". In 1222, the second oldest university in Italy was founded in Padua (currently over 65,000 students) and, in the same place and time period, St. Anthony began his ministry.

The Venetian Republic, as a commercial powerhouse, welcomed 1,100 years of influence in the Mediterranean and controlled much of the region extending its dominance to Crete and Cyprus.

Eventually, Venice's influence waned as Ottoman control of the eastern Mediterranean grew and other sea routes to Asia were discovered. In 1797, Napoleon invaded and conquered the region, ending the 1,000 year Venetian Republic. After several territorial exchanges, Venice was re-conquered by Napoleon and became a part of the Kingdom of Italy in 1806 under a French-Italian rule until 1815 when the Venetia region became a part of the Austrian Empire. Over the years, the Austrian government became very unpopular. After the Austro-Prussian War in 1866 and some international maneuvering, the Treaty of Vienna ceded the region to France which in turn ceded it back to Italy. If you think this is confusing, it is, as was so much international politics during that era. The 19th century witnessed the emigration of much of the Venetian population due to severe



economic conditions and inclusion in two world wars.

Today, the region is stable and enjoys economic and social prosperity. Veneto has a President who

is often referred to as “Doge” to warmly remember tradition. The President governs with a regional council or parliament. It has 7 provinces, the most famous of which are: Venice, Padua and Verona. With a population of approximately 5 million, it is now beginning to grow after 20 years of population decline. The government estimates that about 401,000, or 8.3% of the population, are foreign born immigrants. The region is overwhelmingly Roman Catholic and boasts three Popes: Pius X, John XXIII and John Paul I.

The economy of the region has limited agriculture, mostly vegetables and fruits, but is an important wine-growing area producing Prosecco, Valpolicella and Soave. The region produces more bottles of wine than any other area in Italy.

Regional industry is comprised of small and medium sized businesses of food, wood, furniture, leather, footwear, textiles and jewelry. Electronics is emerging as a business.

Tourism, however, is a main economic resource. A full 1/5 (60,000) of Italy's tourism is attracted to Veneto to enjoy the many beaches (Lido in Venice, Jesolo and Caorle among others), the world famous canals of Venice, the Romeo and Juliet balcony in Verona and the stunning beauty of the Dolomites mountain range among many other sites. While there, tourists and locals as well, get refreshed with a "spritz" or "spriseto", a refreshing drink of 1/3 sparkling Prosecco wine and 2/3 Aperol, a purely Italian liqueur. Tiramisu, the delicious dessert everyone loves, originated from Veneto.

The region is also well known for its festivals. The most famous is Carnevale in Venice which is always celebrated on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday.

Venice is well known for its famous canals. Verona is the site of a Roman amphitheater called the "Arena" which has been active since the 16th century. Both cities are centers for Italian music and house many famous theaters and music halls.

With its lakes, parks, mountains and famous cities, Veneto is one of the most scenic and attractive regions of Italy.

NOTICE:
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INFORMATION OR APPLICATION
FORM, PLEASE CONTACT:

ANITA BOMBERGER @ 569-2724

Benvenuto!

Welcome New Members:

Andrea Accardi
George & Dina Agadis & Family
Dulcey Antonucci & Dan Piombino & Family
John & Susan Garofola
Donna Robinson
Denise Sater
Edward & Amy Soule
Robert & Catherine VanTash

Get Well:

Quirino Di Cola
Joanna Pawlikowski
Alfred DeLeo

Bravo:

Sofia Grochowski graduated 8th grade from Mark Twain School for the Gifted and Talented in Brooklyn, NY. She achieved a 4.0+ average and also received the highest science award and the Italian award. Sofia is the granddaughter of **Tony and Jaye Grochowski.**

Alessandro Russo was recently promoted to Adult Services Manager at the Lancaster Public Library.

Fred Rodger's painting, "Bangin' the Keys at Southern Market" will be exhibited during October at the Red Raven Art Co. It is part of "Music for Everyone's Keys" for the City 'street scenes' project.

Congratulations to:

Makila Carello on the birth of her granddaughter, Naomi Mae, on September 11th.

Clara Di Ilio who celebrated her 100th birthday on September 15th.

James and Linda Kopf on celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on August 22nd.

James and Stephany Lombardo on celebrating 50 years of marriage on September 12th.

Condolences to:

Linda and Paul Hilton and Family on the passing of her father, **Albert Santivenere.**

Francesco and Mary Ellen Genoese on the passing of his brother, Philip and mother, Mickina Genoese.

Julia Weigle and Family on the passing of her mother, **Izora Bowermaster.**

Traditions Passed On

LICS member **Dominic Russo** pours one of 491 quarts of tomato puree in his annual Tomato Day celebration in October.

Dominic started making purée with his family when he was a child over 50 years ago. In 1985, he bought his own machine and, starting in 2008, has made it into a day of festivities with his friend, **Alessandro Casadei Della Chiesa.**

The day starts with the grinding of the tomatoes, then cooking and putting the purée into the jars. It ends with a dinner of pasta for all the helpers.

Dominic is teaching his son and grandson the process and tradition.

This year, 491 quarts set a personal record for Dominic.



2014
CALENDAR FOR MEETINGS AND EVENTS
(Subject to Change)

Sunday, November 9th	General Meeting/Featuring Fred Rodger	Liederkrantz
Sunday, December 14th	Christmas Party	Eden Resort
Sunday, March 15, 2015	Election Meeting/Winter Picnic	TBD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETINGS--TUESDAYS, 6:30 PM AT ST. JOHN NEUMANN
December 9

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Who really invented the telephone?

Antonio Meucci filed a patent caveat for a telephone device in December, 1871. Patent caveats, according to law, were a "description of an invention, intended to be patented, lodged in the patent office before the patent was applied for, and operated as a bar to the issue of any patent to any other person regarding the same invention." Caveats lasted one year and were renewable. Patent caveats were much less costly than a full patent application and required a less detailed description of the invention. The U.S. Patent Office would note the subject matter of the caveat (no longer issued) and hold it in confidentiality.

If within the year another inventor filed a patent application for a similar invention, the Patent Office notified the holder of the caveat, who then had three months to submit a formal application. Antonio Meucci did not renew his caveat after 1874 and Alexander Graham Bell was granted a patent in March of 1876. It should be pointed out that a caveat does not guarantee a patent will be granted, or what the scope of that patent will be. Antonio Meucci was granted fourteen patents for other inventions, which begs the question why Meucci did not file a patent application for the telephone, when other patents were granted to him.

Thanks to **Valerie Faiola** for this information.

37 Years of Bocce in Lancaster

The Lancaster Bocce League completed its 37th year of competition in August. Started in 1977 as an experiment on 2 makeshift grass courts in Buchanan Park, the League now boasts 8 permanent courts spread among the City (Buchanan Park), E. Hempfield Twp. (Amos Herr Park) and Manheim Township (Overlook Campus).

Beginning with just 7 teams, the league now has 24 teams with male and female, senior and youthful players, some with family teams.

I reported earlier on the origin of the league when then Mayor Richard Scott proposed bocce as an interim nod to the Lancaster Italian community until the time was ripe for a Christopher Columbus statue. This statue was a dream of Mr. Antonio Palumbo as a legacy contribution of the Italian community to Lancaster. He first petitioned the City for placement of the statue in 1971, but the time was not right for such a project. The Mayor wanted to reward Mr. Palumbo for his efforts and recommended bocce. The Columbus statue was finally erected in 1992 and resides in Lenox Lane behind the court house.

The Lancaster Bocce League was formed in 1977 and play began on two grass courts in Buchanan Park. In 1985, the city replaced the grass courts with the two permanent courts which are still in use today. Once the permanent courts were in place at Buchanan Park, they were named in honor of Mr. Antonio Palumbo, a society member who played in the Lancaster Bocce League into his 90's.

When the Lancaster Italian Cultural Society was formed in 1999, it saw the Bocce League as benefiting and promoting Italian culture in the community and supported the league both with contributions for court construction and maintenance, and by having many of its members join teams.

Two teams of the original 7 still are in the league: Scostomati and Gasperina Raiders were formed in 1977, with two others, Marchigiani and Reggio joining the next year. It is ironic that Marchigiani and Reggio were the two teams in the championship playoff in 2014!

League President and LICS member, Bob Barbush, is very pleased with the success of the league this year and invites any LICS member interested in joining or forming a team, to contact him at: bbarbush@barbushrentals.com Tel- 717-948-1311.



Marchigiani team captain, Joe D'Isabella, throws his bocce ball in the championship game while Reggio team captain, Sam Mecum, looks on. Marchigiani went on to win the best of 5 series to become the 2014 Lancaster Bocce League champions.

FEAST OF THE SEVEN FISHES

When you hear the number 7, what do you think about? Good luck? The 7 sacraments? How many days it took to create the world? Snow White and the 7 dwarfs?

Whatever connotation it has, Italian people have a tradition of serving the Feast of the Seven Fishes on Christmas Eve, a tradition which they carried with them to the New World.

Believed to have originated in Southern Italy, La Vigilia (The Vigil) comes from the Latin term meaning "wakefulness". Indeed, Christmas Eve is the vigil (the watch) before the birth of Christ. Traditional Catholics, especially Italian Catholics, observed a strict fast for 24 hours before Christmas and ended it with a meal of at least seven courses of fresh seafood dishes. This tradition was especially strong in Southern Italy.

The number 7 has many meanings. For example, it appears in the Bible over 700 times. There are 7 Sacraments in the Catholic faith, 7 hills of Rome, 7 of the apostles were fishermen and 7 letters in the word "Vigilia" and of course, the Bible which says, "By the seventh day, God completed His work and rested".

Traditionally, Italians served seven, sometimes eight or even nine specific fish dishes. The most famous Southern Italian fish is bacala (salted cod). Calamari and fried smelts are two other common fishes.

A typical seven course meal could consist of the following: Marinated seafood salad, fish soup, spaghetti with clam sauce, baked cod, mixed fried fishes, baked sole and a final course of eel. White wines traditionally accompany the seafood and an eighth and final course could be Italian Christmas pastries and a sweet dessert wine.

Over the years, newer generations of Italians lost some of their tradition and, in this case, the number of courses served by many Italian families on Christmas Eve has decreased. One tradition remaining, however, is that fish remains the sole food source.

Here is a recipe from for a fish soup which contains:

1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
2 cups diced onions
1 cup diced celery
1/4 cup finely chopped parsley & thyme
1/4 cup finely chopped oregano
2 cups chopped clams
4 oz crab meat
4 oz shrimp, peeled, deveined and diced
4 oz lobster meat, diced
4 oz scallops , chopped
4 oz fresh fish (cod or haddock) diced
Salt and pepper to taste
1 cup dry white wine
46 oz clam juice
32 oz canned peeled Italian tomatoes with juice
2 cups peeled and diced potatoes



In medium-size stockpot, combine oil, onions and celery. Sauté until vegetables become translucent. Add parsley, thyme, oregano and all seafood. Season to taste with salt/pepper. Deglaze the bottom of the pot with the white wine.

Add clam juice and tomatoes. Bring to simmer. Taste for salt and pepper, adjusting if needed. Allow soup to reduce to 3/4 of its original amount, then add potatoes. Cook until potatoes are tender. Once again, taste for salt and pepper adjusting if needed.

Makes 6 servings.

LICS Italian-American of the Year Award

Nominations are now being accepted for the Third Annual Italian-American of the Year Award. The female or male recipient will be an Italian-American who has made a significant contribution to LICS or the greater Lancaster community. A person may not be nominated who has received the award previously. Last year there were several very qualified nominees, and you are encouraged to resubmit any nominee from last year who was not selected.

The recipient is granted free admission to any local LICS events (including meetings, Spaghetti Dinner, Christmas Party and annual picnic) for the year of their honor (in this case 2015).

Please complete the flier in this newsletter and mail to Jay Butterfield so that it arrives by November 20. Mail on or before November 15 to be certain. The nominations received will be reviewed and a selection will be made by the committee in late November.

Please see the criteria and application form included in this newsletter.

Contact Jay Butterfield 717 887-8472 or at jbutterfield_308@comcast.net for more information.

ITALY'S TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

BY James J Lombardo

Italy is very much a modern country when it comes to transportation. Below is a glimpse at the major transit systems in Italy today.

ROADWAY SYSTEM

Believe it or not, Italy is credited as the first country to build a motorway reserved exclusively

for motor vehicles to travel at high rates of speed. In 1921, Piero Puricelle, a civil engineer, was granted permission to build a public road. He completed construction of one lane in each direction around 1926 connecting Milan to Varese. By the end of the 1930's, over 400 kilometers of single and multi-lane motorways were constructed throughout Italy, which linked cities and rural towns.

Italy's autostrade maintains a standard speed limit of 130 km/h (81 mph) for cars. Other vehicles have a lower limit as do the cars during foul weather and low visibility. Italian transit law does provide for operators to travel up to 150 km/h (93 mph) in some circumstances (e.g. three lanes in each direction).

Italy is credited with having one of the world's best highway systems which, in 2002, totaled an estimated

668,669 km or 415,511 miles of paved roads. They carry an estimated 32 million passenger cars and 2.9 million commercial vehicles.



RAILWAY SYSTEM

By far, the major transit system in Italy is the railway. Italy maintains a railway system of over 24,227 km or 15,054 miles. The government owns and operates 80% of the rail system called the Italian State Railway (Ferrovie dello Stato-FS). This system accounts for 16,723 km or 10,391 miles of line and is growing with the construction of the new high speed rail network. The government system connects to French, Swiss, Austrian and Slovenian systems at major border crossings. As of April 2012, a new private high speed line called the "Italo Treno" began operations as competition with the nationally

owned FS system on the main trunk lines connecting Italy's major cities. These trains are painted Ferrari red and are a serious competitor to the national system.

Some trains still have the old fashioned couchette cars. If anyone rode in these, as I have, you will long remember the experience...especially if on an overnight train ride. These cars have a corridor along one side, lined with windows on the outside (through which luggage is handed in and out during a stop) and doors on the other side of the corridor. The doors open into 10 little couchettes or compartments, each of which seats six to eight people in second class. First class compartments seat four to six people in slightly cushier seats (believe me, not worth the expense). This tradition is fast disappearing and is more commonly found in movie films than on the track itself.

The latest rail project is a multi-billion dollar high speed project to link Lyon, France and Torino, Italy. Once completed in 2025, it could reduce travel time between Paris and Milan from seven to four hours and remove over a million trucks from the highway.



NAVIGATION SYSTEM

Navigable inland waterway systems in Italy total about 2,400 km or 1,490 miles mainly in the north. It consists of the Po River, Italian lakes and a network of Venetian and Po River canals. There is a train-ferry and automobile-ferry service between Messina and other Sicilian ports, while freight and passengers can travel from Palermo to Naples. Sardinia and the smaller islands are served by regular shipping. Hydrofoil service between Calabria and Sicily and between Naples, Ischia

and Capri also is available. Italy has over 467 merchant vessels. Major ports include Venice in the North, Genoa and Naples in central and southern Italy. Livorno, Catania and Cagliari serve as other chief ports.

AVIATION

Italy had 135 airports in 2001, 96 of them with paved runways. The only Italian airline, Alitalia, is predominantly government owned. Fiumicino Airport in Rome and Malpensa Airport in Milan are among the most important Italian airports and are served by most of the major international air carriers. A series of regional airports connect with these as well as with major rail lines. Many of these smaller airports near major cities offer flights for a fraction of the cost you pay at major airports... if you have the time and patience to locate them.



I feel compelled to caution you about the infamous Italian strikes. All the major transit systems are subject to work stoppage at a moment's notice and the savvy traveler must be aware that this could happen. Fortunately, the Internet can help. If you plan on travelling to Italy and using public transit, check the web site: Rome Travel Cafe and click on "Strike Information" and hopefully save yourself some precious time.

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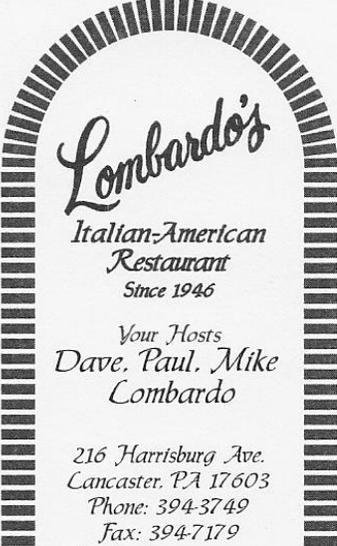

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