



*The Newsletter of the
Lancaster Italian Cultural Society*



L'Osservatore Lancastriano

President's Message

Ciao Amici,

I hope all of you had a great and festive Easter. As spring is slowly arriving and we increase our activities, always proceed with care (an old saying: chi fa piano va lontano).

The election meeting and winter picnic in March was a huge success. The main course and all the covered dishes were delicious. The dessert table was so extensive that one would think you were at a bakery.

We welcome the newly elected board members: Stephen Iovino, Peter Byrne, Dee Viscardi and Phyllis Eckenroth.

The Ladies Luncheons held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month continue to be a popular event.

At the May 17th general meeting, three winning students will each receive a \$2000 scholarship award. This year's Oldies Dance is set for June 12th at the Liederkranz. Bring your family and friends and enjoy a night of fun.

A trip is being planned to Brooklyn for the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel on July 12th. Other trips and activities are in the early planning stages.

Have a safe spring and summer.

Sempre amici,

Charlie

NOTICE:
TO OBTAIN MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION OR
APPLICATION FORM, PLEASE CONTACT:
ANITA BOMBERGER @ 569-2724

This is the 20th and final article on the Regions of Italy: Trentino-Alto Adige

Trentino-Alto Adige is an autonomous region in Northern Italy. If you remember, there are five autonomous regions in Italy (Sardinia, Sicily, Aosta Valley, Friuli-Venzia Giulia and Trentino-Alto Adige). Autonomous regions exercise a form of home rule in legislation, administration and finance. In return for this autonomy, they must finance the health care system, school system and most public infrastructure by themselves. They became autonomous because of the cultural differences and to protect linguistic minorities within their regions and to prevent their secession from Italy after WW II.



Interestingly, and typically Italian, Trentino-Alto Adige represents a separate and special case of autonomous privilege. The region itself is nearly powerless because the two autonomous provinces within the region, Trentino (capital) and South Tyrol, exercise most of the powers and the regional government plays a coordinating role.

Originally a part of the Austrian Empire and later the Holy Roman Empire, it was annexed by Italy in 1919. Today, with a population of over 1 million, it is among the wealthiest and most developed territories in Europe. Both Italian and German are spoken in the region.

Up to the 11th century, the region was ruled by Romans, Lombards, German tribes and Bavarians. From the 11th century onward, it had several rulers, including the Holy Roman Empire, Tyrol, Austria

and Bavaria. While under French control, it was called Haut Adige (High Adige), or in Italian, Alto Adige.

When Mussolini became dictator of Italy, he Italianized the German population in order to justify Italian claims to the area. In 1938, Hitler and Mussolini agreed to transfer German speaking people to German ruled territory, but the outbreak of war prevented this relocation. However, many of these people were relocated to Germany during the war and had difficulty returning to Italy afterward. The region was annexed to Germany when the Italian government signed an armistice with the Allies in 1943, but after the war was restored to Italian rule in 1945.

In 1946-47, German and Italian were both made official languages. However, Austrian influence remained significant due to the proximity to Austria. It became a source of conflict which was not resolved until 1971, when an Austro-Italian treaty gave greater autonomy to the region; thus the special set of autonomous rules where the two provinces exercise independent powers from the regional government and themselves.

While the region enjoys economic prosperity from its wine, fruit, dairy and timber industries, hydroelectric power and tourism are its principal drivers. As stated earlier, Italian and German are official languages with Trentino speaking mostly Italian and South Tryol speaking mostly German.

If ever the opportunity arises, a visit to this unique region would be most satisfying in itself as well as a gateway to an unparalleled scenic experience.

Editor's note: *It was a pleasure to present the 20 regions of Italy to you through the L'Osservatore Lancastriano, the newsletter of LICS. These short articles are but a taste of the real culture and history found in Italy as observed by the various regional traditions and heritage. I urge our readers to continue reading about the regions, especially the one region from which they or their families originated. You will surely be rewarded.*

I will be consolidating these 20 articles into a booklet format and make it available through the Society in

the near future. Thank you and I hope you enjoyed reading about the regions of Italy.

James J. Lombardo, Editor

SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, September 4, 2015

Frank Sinatra 100th Birthday Celebration

Clipper Stadium Barnstormers Baseball Game
The Barnstormers will be celebrating the 100th Birthday of Frank Sinatra and have invited LICS to participate with the festivities! Great Sinatra music, film clips, Italian food, dancing, Bocce and lots of fun.

More information will be forthcoming, so read your newsletter and check the E-Blasts. You don't want to miss out on this wonderful event!

Sollevare - The Italian Folk Dance Troupe

by: Ann & Rudy DeLaurentis

The idea that became Sollevare began in mid to late 2009, when Nella Seward asked us and several other LICS members to begin studying "Italian Folklore" dance. We did this to have fun and to keep alive the traditions and steps of folk dance from Italy. They can then be passed on, remembered and shared as part of our culture with fellow LICS members, Italian-Americans, and with others as well. The original group of dancers included Maria Galanti, Ken Pandozzi, Nella, and Ann and Rudy DeLaurentis.

Several dance lessons were held in Nella's basement, taught by Zita Angelo, who has taught folk dance from many countries for a number of



years in Lancaster. She first taught us the Graziella Mazurka, a waltz-like folk dance from the northern part of Italy, that also is danced in other countries bordering to the north. But the piece of music was

Italian, and this particular dance is well known as an Italian Folk Dance.

After the initial lessons with Zita, Ann volunteered to direct the group after we invited other couples from LICS to join us. First, Jay and Anne Butterfield, and next, Nick and Judy Siviglia joined Ann and Rudy and Ken and Nella. Maria decided not to continue in early 2010.

In order to improve and add to our repertoire, we journeyed to Philadelphia and met an amazing folk dance troupe called Vivaci. Paul Torni, who was the leader of the Troupe, and Vivaci were very welcoming and joyous. We joined Vivaci for an afternoon of folk dance and they tried to teach us about six dances all in the space of two hours.

Among the dances we learned was the Basket Dance, from the northern part of Italy. This is known as a border dance, and would also be danced in countries like Austria and Switzerland, which border Italy to the north. The dance mimics the weaving of a basket, with intertwined arms, going round and round.

Another was the Tarantella Siciliana. It is more of a social dance, and is danced in groups of four, trading partners back and forth. It's a playful dance, and includes tambourines to accent the fast rhythm of the music. It became our favorite dance to perform.

We also learned La Danza. This is more of a court dance or an early ballroom dance. Danced by couples in "skaters' position", it moves in a "line of dance" around a circle, and has a lot of curtsies and bows.

After a few other dances, we went to Paul's house for a pizza and vino party. The day was a wonderfully Italian experience. Paul told us about a great resource, the Italian Folk Art Federation of America, which we later joined.

Now we needed a name. Rudy came up with Sollevare, the Italian word means "to lift or uplift", as we believed our spirited dancing was uplifting. On our resident native Italian speaker Nella's suggestion, the name changed to Sollevanti, which means "uplifting".

Our first performance was for the Multi-Cultural Fest, June 13, 2010, where we performed two dances: Graziela Mazurka and a Tarantella mix, choreographed by Ann DeLaurentis, to the music of the Tarantella Napoletana, the most well known piece

of tarantella music. She choreographed different parts of other tarantella steps into the dance, with circular formations, grape vine steps, lots of hooting and hollering and clapping. When you watch, you can see the stomping of the spiders in some places, the sneaking away from spiders or from your partner, depending on how you look at it, the dancing in a grapevine formation and, at the end, leading the whole town in a weaving line, hand-in-hand.

In late August of 2010, Jeannie and Bruce Hubbs joined the troupe in time for our second performance at the LICS Picnic on September 12, 2010. Helen and Glenn Ebersole joined soon after. We started practicing at Sacred Heart Church and later at Wheatland Middle School.

Our third performance was in June 2011, at the 2nd Multi-Cultural Fest. Our fourth performance was in July 2011, when we did a City Public Library performance, performed several dances, talked about Italian folk dance traditions, and taught the children a basic tarantella step. Then we had the children join us in a final dance of a Quadriglia, which is a "called" dance, or a dance that is lead by someone who calls out the next move, and everyone follows along. It's similar to a country square dance, only it is danced in a circle. The children and adults watching joined in, and as the steps got faster and faster as the music moved along, everyone was laughing and having a great time.

Other performances included a spaghetti dinner at Sacred Heart Church in



2011, a German Folk Dance dinner to which our troupe was invited, in November 2011, Carnevale in March 2012, and at the Multi-Cultural Fest June 10, 2012, with a newly learned Mambo, choreographed by Rebecca Gentry, added to the traditional dances.

After that, Ann and Rudy stepped back from the group due to some physical issues. The other 8 performers continued, under the direction of the Butterfields, and performed at the next two Multi-Cultural Fests. June 2014 was the most recent performance from the Troupe.

2015
CALENDAR FOR MEETINGS AND EVENTS
(Subject to Change)

Sunday, May 17 th	Scholarship Awards/General Meeting	Conestoga Country Club
Friday, June 12 th	Oldies Dance	Liederkrantz
Sunday, July 12 th	Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Feast	Brooklyn, NY
Friday, September 4 th	Frank Sinatra 100th Birthday Celebration	Clipper Stadium
Sunday, September 13 th	LICS Annual Picnic	Liederkrantz
Sunday, October 11 th	Vendemmia Festival	Wilmington, DE
Saturday, October 17 th	LICS Spaghetti Dinner/Fundraiser	St. John Neumann
Sunday, November 8 th	General Meeting/Program	TBD
Sunday, December 13 th	Christmas Party	Eden Resort

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETINGS--TUESDAYS, 6:30 PM AT ST. JOHN NEUMANN
June 9, August 11, October 13, December 8

MEMBERS CORNER

Benvenuto: Welcome New Members

Peter & Jamie Costanzo
Frank & Stephanie Dell'Estate
Anthony DeMarco
Linda & George Elko
Vera Schiffner
Kathleen Valeri

Congratulations to:

Valerie and Greg Faiola on the birth of a grandson,
 Benjamin Anthony Miller.

Joseph D. "JD" and Rebecca Roda on the birth of a
 granddaughter, Finley Emma McNeill.

Bravo:

David Allen Lambert, a former LICS Scholarship
 winner, recently graduated from the University of
 Maryland Dental School. He is currently practicing in
 Denver, Colorado. David is the son of **Kevin and**
Anita Lambert.

Condolences to:

Shirley Roda and Family on the passing of her
 husband, **Frank J. Roda.**

The Family of **Giovina Bradley** on her passing.

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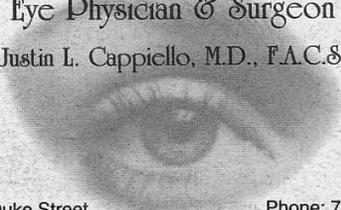
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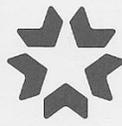
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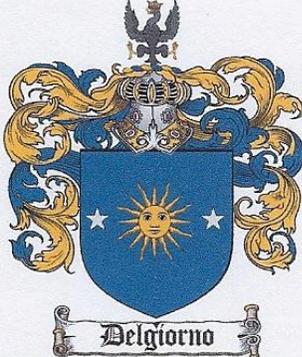
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