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*The Newsletter of the
Lancaster Italian Cultural Society*

Volume 18 ~ Issue 2 May 2016



LANCASTER
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SOCIETY



L'Osservatore Lancastriano

President's Message



(From left to right: David Ferruzza, Rudy DeLaurentis, Janice Longer, Rosemary LaFata, Ann Marie Petrone, Helen Ebersole, Don Spica, Steve Iovino and Louise Ross.)

Ciao a tutti,

The new board of directors and officers were sworn in at the March 13th General Election Meeting & Winter Picnic. We welcome our new directors, Louise Ross and Don Spica, and our returning directors, Ann Marie Petrone, Rosemary LaFata and Helen Ebersole. Steve Iovino is the new vice president, Janice Longer returns as secretary after 10 years, David Ferruzza continues as our treasurer, and I am honored to be president again after 17 years.

We had a wonderful time at the picnic/meeting. Our delicious lunch of baked penne with sauce, meatballs, bread and salad was catered by Pasquale's. Desserts and the entire luncheon were

provided by LICS. A big thank you to the kitchen crew: Val and Greg Faiola, Dee and John Viscardi, Linda and Frank Provanzo, Rosemary and Bob LaFata, Helen Ebersole, Phyllis and Jim Eckenroth. Brava to Ann Marie Petrone for an outstanding job of planning, organizing and directing the event!

It was like old times to have Father Bernardo Pistone there to say grace, pray with us, and make us laugh with his jokes about how well he speaks English.

Frank Provanzo, as vice president conducted the election of officers and directors. President Charlie Criniti was traveling in Europe and could not be with us. On behalf of the membership, we thank Charlie, Frank, and former

board members George Belforti, John Villella and Enrica Gerhart for their leadership, hard work and loyalty to LICS. We have some big shoes to fill, and with our members' help, we can carry on their legacy.

My goal this year is to continue to promote our Italian culture as much as possible. What is Italian culture, you may ask? Italy is a country rich in history, tradition, religion, the visual arts with some of the world's greatest artists, architecture, music, dance, wine making, and of course, food!

My favorite online magazine, *We The Italians*, has a saying: "Two flags, one heart", meaning that as Italian Americans we love America, and at the same time, honor the country from which we, our parents, or our grandparents came to the U.S. There is a link on the LICS Website to this great free magazine, so please check it out.

Together, I'm hoping that we can work together to help LICS become the "hub", so to speak, of all things Italian in our geographic area, and that we can support all of our Italian brothers and sisters, like a big Italian family.

So, please share with us your ideas and/or volunteer for a committee, or let us know what we can do to make LICS better.

Grazie, Rudy DeLaurentis

The Italian Language

by James J. Lombardo and Nella Seward



Many say it sounds like music to the ears, the rolling of the R's, the tender vowels and the melodious cadence.

Of course, I am talking about the Italian language by a people who are the masters of expression—artistic, musical or linguistic.

The Italian language we know today, actually evolved beginning with classical Latin which was spoken during the era of the Roman Empire. During the time of Augustus, writers of the time, such as Cicero and Virgil, began to codify the Latin language. Until that time, it was the only spoken language with many variations throughout the empire. After the fall of the Roman Empire, classical Latin became the language of the elite and of the Church, while the normal spoken Latin took on a life of its own.

This “vulgar” language became influenced by the constant stream of invaders and traders until each region began to develop its own vernacular. Eventually, the verbal use of Latin died, but remained in written form, as it survives today.

Today's Romance languages, most common of which are French, Spanish, Romanian, Portuguese and Italian, all derived from the “vulgar” Latin with Italian being the closest cousin.

Dante Alighieri was one of the first to write down the spoken language of the people in Florence. The Florentines had their own language and his masterpiece, *The Divine Comedy*, was written in the Tuscan vernacular. With the success of this work, the Tuscan Italian became the rage of the day for other poets and

writers and became the model to be used in developing a fixed standard for the Italian language of today.

Dialects are variations of a language, usually particular to a region and noticeably different from the standard and written language. In Italy, regional dialects resulted from the infusion of different influences and cultures.

Television, radio and printed press, along with the efforts by the government, have linguistically united the country. Tuscan Italian is the official standard language used throughout. However, dialects continue to be spoken and most Italians are familiar with at least one, if not more dialects.

Some dialects sound like different languages altogether. In northern Lombardia, once ruled by Austria, you can still hear a distinctly German accent and softening of the R's. In Piedmont, you can hear the French influences. The Napolitan dialect has a trace of Spanish and French while in Calabria, Greek can be detected. To put a name to some of the dialects, we can identify with: Ligurian, Lombardian, Milanese, Napolitan, Piedmontese, Roman, Umbrian and Venetian while in Sicily and Sardinia, the Sicilian and Sardo are considered by many to be languages in their own right.

The dialects are alive in Italy and probably will always be used. Wherever spoken, they sound like music. People have composed in many dialects some of the most beautiful poetry, especially found in the Neapolitan and Roman songs. Trilussa, a Roman poet wrote several poetry books in the Roman dialect. Italy is proud of its dialects, but we must remember that the pure Italian is taught in school and all Italians can speak, write and understand perfect Italian.

Any discussion of Italian language would be incomplete without mentioning gestures. It is said that if you go to an Italian movie and the sound goes off, you would not have a problem identifying the emotions being expressed by the Italian actors. Italian hand gestures could fill this newsletter but for the sake of space, here are a few: (I'm sure we all experienced these-and perhaps still do.)



-A hand flipped over the shoulder indicates something that has happened in the past.

-Raise the index and pinkie fingers of a clenched fist and you have what in Italian is called a “cornuto” or another way of saying “fool”.

-With the palm toward your chest, flip the tips of your fingers beneath your chin and you just expressed your indifference.

-Raise your eyebrows while poking your cheek with your index finger (and rotate the finger) and you are expressing your experience with something good or nice.

Note: A special thanks to James V. Lombardo for providing the source document for this article.

A Glimpse at Italy's Religious and Related Traditions



Roman Catholicism is the largest religion in Italy. Vatican City, shown above, a sovereign city/state within the borders of Italy, serves as the center of Roman Catholicism all over the world and is the home of the Pope.

Some of the religious Italian traditions, such as creating a nativity scene outside a church, have become worldwide traditions. The regular religious practices include weekly church services, observance of religious holidays, and obeying the religious doctrine, as instructed by the Pope. Italian celebrations too, place a lot of emphasis on the saints and Virgin Mary. Almost 98% of Italians are Roman Catholic. Minorities of Protestant, Eastern Orthodox, and other Christian churches also reside in Italy. The second largest religion followed in Italy is Islam, with 1.4% Muslim population. Italy's population also includes 75,000 Hindus, 50,000 Buddhists, and 30,000 Jews.

Baptism and Weddings

Religion plays a very important role when a child is born into an Italian family. The baby is baptized in a traditional Roman Catholic ceremony, where the parents choose a godmother and godfather for the baby, who are obligated to raise the baby in case the birth parents fail to do so.

In a traditional Italian courtship, the groom needs the permission of the bride's family before marrying her. Italians too, wear a diamond ring as a symbol of engagement and marriage. The wedding is usually held at a morning mass, which is followed by a day-long feast and a reception. The

reception features a traditional Italian meal which includes various drinks, appetizers, three or four courses, side dishes, cheese and fruit, and a variety of desserts.

Some Interesting Wedding Traditions Include:



» During the reception, in a tradition called "la borsa", the bride carries a small satin bag, in which friends and family place cash, in exchange of a dance with her.

» The newlyweds' first dance is the "tarantella", a traditional Italian dance. The guests at the wedding form a circle and dance around the couple. It is called the dance of a spider, and involves light movements with passionate hand gestures.

» The groom cuts his tie at the end of the wedding ceremony, which the groomsmen then sell off, usually to pay for the band.

» Another interesting and one of the oldest traditions is to gift candy coated Jordan almonds wrapped in tulle (a lightweight fine netting) to the guests, which represent the bittersweet nature of marriage.

» The bride usually wears a green dress on the night before her wedding, as this is supposed to bring the couple abundance and good luck.



Bravi (Well Done):

Frank Errigo has written a book, **A WWII Combat Photographer's Story: The First Use of Color**, as told by his daughter, Paula.

Did You Know . . .

FROM THE ITALIAN CONSULATE GENERAL'S OFFICE IN PHILADELPHIA:

- ◇ Italy holds the record for number of olive varieties and produces over 600 different kinds of cheese
- ◇ has been the world leader in pasta making for over 500 years
- ◇ has the largest selection of food products certified by their region and production process
- ◇ exports 40 billion Euros worth of goods in the food and drink industry
- ◇ is the leader in the number of businesses that produce organic products
- ◇ has the most eco-friendly agriculture from an environmental point of view for the reduction of gas emissions and greenhouse effect



Membership Report

As of March 2016, we have 205 members/families.

Welcome New Members!

- Dina Agadis
- Pamela Moore & Silvia Antonucci
- Guy & Janet Borghi
- Charlotte Compton & Theresa Simo
- Michele DeRosa
- Brandt & Gabrielle Hackman
- Mariangela & George Himmelright
- Jess & Joanne Formichello-Kelso
- Debra Keller
- Theresa & Anthony J. Lombardo, Sr.
- James & Bernadette Fiocca-McCutcheon
- Dana Micciche
- Mary Sarkis & Ray Napoli
- Fiorella Spidaliere
- Rosemary Wilson

Get Well Wishes to:

Ann Byrne, Gesino Sgro, Anita Bomberger and Joanna Pawlikowski

Our Condolences to:

Francesco and Mary Ellen Genoese on the passing of his sister, Lisa Genoese Fulmer. **Gregory and Valerie Faiola** on the passing of his mother, Kathleen "Katie" Faiola.



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Phone: 717-625-2838

Treasurer - David Ferruzza

Phone: 717-569-6909

Secretary - Janice Longer

Phone: 717-529-6612

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Nella Seward - 717-299-0191

Trips - Dee Viscardi - 717-560-0798

Website & Historian

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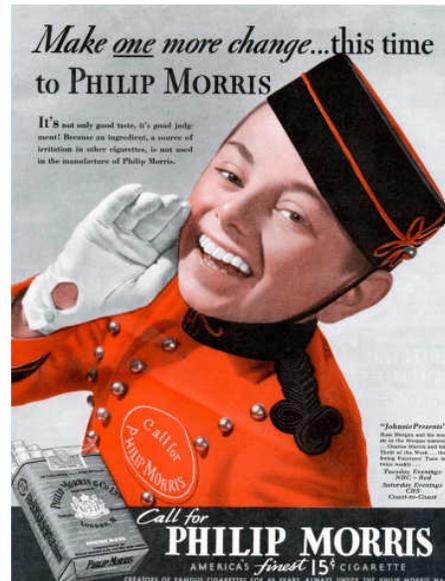
Louise Ross - 717-397-8630

Don Spica - 717-575-4603

details, but I remember the warm feeling of being in an expressive, happy Italian family very well.

LICS would like to hear and collect your stories of Italian family experiences and traditions to share with our members via our website and newsletter. If you are interested in contributing a story, please call me.

Did You Know. . .



Who Remembers Johnny Roventini?

By: James J. Lombardo

For those of us who remember cigarette commercials on television, no doubt the slogan:

“Call For Philip Morris” rings a bell.

Johnny Roventini was a 22 year old bellboy in New York when he was discovered in 1933 by an ad agency who gave him \$1 to walk through the hotel paging Philip Morris. Since there was no real Philip Morris, no one ever answered the call but the slogan became as famous as the voice calling it. This man of 4 feet and 59 pounds went on to become one of the most recognizable voices on radio and was a lifetime spokesman for Philip Morris cigarettes.

For 40 years, Johnny, the son of Italian immigrants, represented the brand and by his count, made the famous call over a million times. When Philip Morris became the sponsor for the “I Love Lucy” show in 1951, Johnny's voice was the first vocal opening the show.

Johnny died in Suffern, New York at the age of 88. By the way, he rarely lit a cigarette.

Spaghetti with Sicilian Trapanese

Pesto by Lidia Bastianich

3/4 pound (about 2 1/2 cups) cherry tomatoes (very ripe and sweet)

12 large fresh Basil Leaves

1 plump clove Garlic (crushed and peeled)

1/3 cup whole Almonds (lightly toasted)

1/4 teaspoon hot Red Pepper Flakes (or to taste)

1/2 teaspoon coarse Sea Salt (or to taste plus more for the pasta pot)

1/2 cup Extra Virgin Olive Oil

1 pound Spaghetti

1/2 cup freshly grated Grana Padano or Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese

Rinse the cherry tomatoes and basil leaves, and pat them dry. Drop the tomatoes into a blender jar or food-processor bowl, followed by the basil leaves, garlic clove, the almonds, hot red pepper flakes, and 1/2 teaspoon salt. Blend for a minute or more to a fine puree; scrape down the bowl, and blend again if any large bits or pieces have survived. With the machine still running, pour in the olive oil in a steady stream, emulsifying the puree into a thick pesto. Taste, and adjust seasoning. (If you're going to dress the pasta within a couple of hours, leave the pesto at room temperature. Refrigerate it for longer storage, up to 2 days, but let it return to room temperature before cooking the pasta.) Makes 4 to 6 servings.

1. To cook the spaghetti, heat 6 quarts of water, with 1 tablespoon salt, to the boil in a large pot. Slip in the spaghetti, and cook until al dente.
2. Scrape all the pesto into a big warm bowl. Lift the cooked spaghetti up, drain briefly, and drop directly into the pesto.
3. Toss quickly to coat the spaghetti, sprinkle the cheese all over, and toss again. Serve immediately in warm bowls.

This is an excellent pesto from the port town of Trapani in Sicilia.



Our Stories by Rudy DeLaurentis

At this month's general meeting, LICS will present the \$2,000 scholarship awards to three selected high school students based on their essays about their Italian heritage and culture.

The essays tell us stories about the students' Italian roots, traditions and stories passed on by their parents and grandparents. They will read their essays at the May meeting. For me, this is a highlight, as I love family stories and how they connect us.

I remember summer nights on the porch with my Nonno when I was a little boy. He would speak mostly in Italian and a little in English about his experiences in Italy and America. I don't really remember all the



LICS sponsors four Lancaster County Young Artist Competition Awards annually. *This year's recipients are:*

Sydney Shuba, Grade 11, Hempfield High School, was honored with the **Artemisia Gentileschi Award** for outstanding artistic achievement in the spirit of the Baroque Art Movement.

Born in Rome, Italy, on July 8, 1593, Artemisia Gentileschi is credited as one of the greatest female painters of the Baroque period. She developed her artistic skills with the help of her father, Orazio Gentileschi, an accomplished painter in his own right. Orazio was greatly influenced by Caravaggio, with whom he had a brief friendship.



Amy Choi, Grade 12, Lancaster County Christian School, was honored with both the **Leonardo da Vinci Award** and **Michelangelo Award** for outstanding artistic achievement in the spirit of the Renaissance.

Leonardo was born in 1452 in the Tuscan hill town of Vinci, in the lower valley of the Arno river in the territory

of the Medici-ruled Republic of Florence.

Leonardo was, and is, renowned primarily as a painter. Among his works, the **Mona Lisa** is the most famous and most parodied portrait and **The Last Supper** the most reproduced religious painting of all time, with their fame approached only by Michelangelo's **The Creation of Adam**.



Michelangelo was born in 1475 in Caprese near Arezzo, Tuscany. He was an Italian sculptor, painter, architect, poet, and engineer of the High Renaissance who exerted an unparalleled influence on the development of Western art. Considered to be the greatest living artist during his

lifetime, he has since also been described as one of the greatest artists of all time. He is often considered a contender for the title of the Renaissance man, along with contemporary rival and fellow Florentine Medici client, Leonardo da Vinci.



Jiaxin Wu, Grade 11, Lancaster Mennonite High School, was honored with the **Modigliani Award** for outstanding artistic achievement in the spirit of the Modern Art Movement.

Amedeo Clemente Modigliani was born in 1884 in Livorno, Italy. He was an Italian Jewish painter and sculptor who worked mainly in France. Modigliani spent his youth in Italy, where he studied the art of antiquity and the Renaissance, until he moved to Paris in 1906. There he came into

contact with prominent artists such as Pablo Picasso and Constantin Brâncusi.

Modigliani worked in Micheli's Art School from 1898 to 1900. Here his earliest formal artistic instruction took place in an atmosphere steeped in a study of the styles and themes of 19th century Italian art. In his earliest Parisian work, traces of this influence, and that of his studies of Renaissance art, can still be seen.

Modigliani's work includes mainly paintings and drawings. From 1909 to 1914, however, he devoted himself mainly to sculpture. His main subject was portraits and full figures of

humans, both in the images and in the sculptures.



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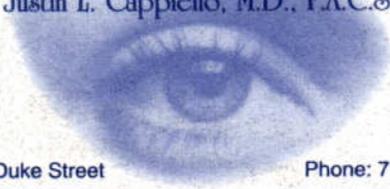
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**Lancaster Italian Cultural Society Presents
Sips & Nibbles
Saturday, August 27, 2016**

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to make your own wine and personalize it? If so, then you will want to join this tour. Learn from the best in winemaking at the **Stone & Key Cellars** in Montgomeryville, PA. Participate in the first step of the winemaking process which includes the mixing of raw materials used in winemaking.

The next step is the use of equipment to cork and bottle your own wine. Finally, create your own custom label for your bottle of wine, which you get to take home. Following the unique experience, guests will enjoy a selection of four different wines served by the staff.

First, we will be visiting Edward Freeman Nut Company and then on to Stone & Key Cellars Winery. Lunch is included at Stove & Tap Restaurant (a small-town pub with urbane atmosphere serving flatbreads, burgers, salads & American classics) in Landsdale, PA, followed by Entenmann's famous bakery on route home.

Leave 7:45 AM from Lancaster Shopping Center, AC Moore parking lot (Oregon Pike side).

Returning back to Lancaster around 5:15 PM

Price per person: \$86.00

Includes: Motor Coach transportation, Stone & Key Cellars - making and bottling wine, listed stops, and lunch. Gratuity for driver not included. This trip is for 21 years of age or older.

In the event you have to cancel, it is your responsibility to get someone to replace you.

Send your check in before July 16, 2016



Make check out to: LICs and mail with bottom portion to Dee Viscardi, 6486 Lincoln Court, East Petersburg, PA 17520.

Reservations or Questions call 717 951-7112

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Name: _____ How Many: _____ Total: \$ _____

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Trip Name and Date: **Sips & Nibbles, Saturday, August 27, 2016**

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Atlantic City, New Jersey
Sunday, September 18, 2016
Itinerary

Leave: 8:00 AM from Lancaster AC Moore parking lot (Oregon Pike side)

Depart: Atlantic City 5:00 PM

Return Back to Lancaster: Approximately 8:30 PM

Cost: \$45.00 and receive \$25.00 in slot play

Your seats will be given to you upon entering the coach.

We will be traveling with Elite motor coach. Our destination is the Tropicana Casino.

Remember to bring your slot cards with you. If you don't have a slot card for the casino, you can get one when you arrive.

On our way down, you will receive a goody bag, play a few games of Bingo (cash prizes), win door prizes from local restaurants and be a winner with our famous Pull Tabs. There will be a 20 minute rest stop.

When returning home, you will receive a snack bag and watch a movie.

Gratuity for driver is not included.

Must be 21 or older for this trip.

Reserve now, seats go fast, so get your check in ASAP. It is your responsibility to get someone to replace you if you have to cancel. There will be no waiting list.

Deadline for reservations is August 28, 2016.

Fill out form below and send with your check.

Make check to: LICS (Lancaster Italian Cultural Society)

Mail to: Dee Viscardi, 6486 Lincoln Court, East Petersburg, PA 17520

Reservations or Questions call 717 951-7112



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Trip Name and Date: **Atlantic City, New Jersey, Sunday, September 18, 2016**

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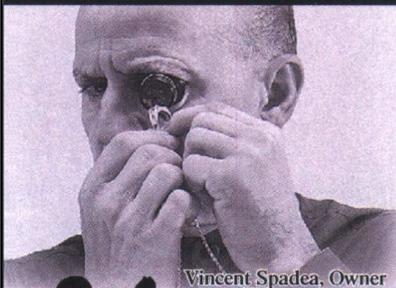
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**Lancaster Italian Cultural Society Presents
 NYC Sights Featuring a Cruise to Ellis Island
 Sunday, October 9, 2016**

No visit to the New York City area is complete without a trip to the world's most famous landmarks - the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. Truly a memorable experience for people from all over the world! Get an up close and personal look at the Statue of Liberty National Monument and access to the Ellis Island National Immigration Museum, featuring the American Immigrant Wall of Honor. Liberty Island tours are available (no extra cost), which provides the opportunity to learn more about the history of Liberty Island and the Statue.

Before we end the day, we will board the coach and go on to a delicious family-style meal at Buca di Beppo Italian Restaurant. Enjoy a handcrafted lunch in an eclectic, vintage setting. Your lunch menu is, Mixed Green Salad, Apple Gorgonzola Salad, Fettucine Alfredo, Baked Rigatoni, Chicken Parmigiana and Cheesecake. Bring your family, friends and children for this amazing day in NYC.

** You will have a Continental breakfast on the coach, and we will be making a rest stop going to NYC and a fast food dinner stop on route home.

Price per person: \$117.00

Includes: Motor Coach transportation, continental breakfast, cruise ticket and Restaurant. Gratuity for coach is not included.

Departing at 5:45 AM from AC Moore, Lancaster (Oregon Pike Side)

Returning at approximately 7:00 PM

In the event you have to cancel, it is your responsibility to get someone to replace you. Send your check in no later than August 6, 2016. This is a popular requested trip, so get your checks in early. To reserve a seat on the coach call: 717 951-7112.

Make check out to: LICS and mail with bottom portion to: Dee Viscardi, 6486 Lincoln Court, East Petersburg, PA 17520

✂-----



Name: _____ How Many: _____ Total: \$ _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Trip Name and Date: NYC Sights Featuring a Cruise to Ellis Island Sunday, October 9, 2016

LICS Upcoming Meetings, Trips & Events for 2016

Sunday, May 15, Scholarship Meeting/Program at Conestoga Country Club

Friday, June 24, Dancing Under the Stars at the Liederkrantz

Saturday, August 27, Sips & Nibbles Stone & Key Cellars Winery

Sunday, September 11, Summer Picnic at the Liederkrantz

Sunday, September 18, 2016, Atlantic City, New Jersey Trip

Sunday, October 9, New York City Sights Featuring a Cruise to Ellis Island

Saturday, Oct. 15, Annual Spaghetti Dinner/Fundraiser, St. John Neumann Church

Sunday, November 13, General Meeting & Program at the Liederkrantz

Sunday, December 11, Christmas Party at the Eden Resort

Please see the flyers in this newsletter for more details,
or visit us at www.lancaster-italian-cultural-society.org

Lancaster Italian Cultural Society

432 N. Christian Street
Lancaster, PA 17602

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