

Italian History Issue

www.lancaster-italian-cultural-society.org

The Newsletter of the
Lancaster Italian Cultural Society
Volume 20 & Issue 3 October 2018



L'Osservatore Lancastriano

President's Message

Miei Amici,

I am happy the autumn season has arrived. What a hot and rainy summer we had this year!

November 11th is the LICS General Meeting at Bolger Conference Center, Lehr Dining Room on the Millersville University Campus. The program, **Do You Know Your Family's Genealogy Story?**, will be presented by **Rebecca Rinehard**, Director of the **LDS Family History Center/Family Researcher.**

The menu will include beef tips with mushrooms, sherry and garlic sauce, stuffed shells with Marinara sauce, Caesar salad, squash, apple and cranberry bake, fresh vegetable stir fry, assorted cookie tray, coffee, tea and iced tea. Please see the flyer included in this newsletter for more details.

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**On Sunday, December 9, 2018, the Lancaster Italian Cultural Society will hold its Annual Christmas Party from Noon to 4:00 PM at Eden Resort & Suites.**

At this event, we will draw three winning raffle tickets as a fundraiser to support LICS Community Education Initiatives. Last year, LICS provided funds for twelve art classrooms in the School District of Lancaster and sponsored four student art awards given by the Lancaster Museum of Art.

Last month, members were sent 2 tickets for purchase or sale to family and friends. For this raffle, we will be selling only 500 tickets at \$10 each. **The prizes that will be awarded are as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> (\$1,000), 2<sup>nd</sup> (\$500) and**

**3<sup>rd</sup> (\$250).** Winners do not need to be present to win.

We hope you can attend these fun events. **Event flyers are included in this newsletter.**

*Cordiali saluti,* Rudy DeLaurentis

~~~~~

Our September 9th Summer Picnic

Picnic Chair Helen Ebersole and the picnic committee did a great job, and Helen reports that the 19th Annual Summer Picnic was a huge success!



Nick & Judy Siviglia, Anne & Jay Butterfield, & Ann DeLaurentis

“We set 2 records at our 19th Annual Summer Picnic! A record number 131 LICS members and guests attended on the coldest Lancaster County September 9th temperature ever recorded at 55 degrees!

The original inclement weather plan was to use the drop down pavilion canopies. But as the weather reports showed deteriorating conditions Friday morning called for a “Plan B”. I had checked on Friday morning to find out about the availability of the inside space. That space and three other inside venues that I had also contacted Friday

morning were in use. So with the situation as it was, we went with ‘weathering’ the conditions in the pavilion as best as we could, “Plan A”!

On Sunday, two hours before guests arrived, I received word that the Hempfield Fire Department (HFD) now made it possible for us to move from the HFD Pavilion to the HFD inside event room. Some quick thinking and action made for a smooth arrival to our 'new' HFD inside location.

It was a snug and “close knit” LICS family picnic experience in the inside space! People enjoyed the close proximity, as some shared with me that they really were able to talk with more people as they enjoyed the delicious food from Enck's Catering. Enck's did a fabulous job of not

only setting up (and cleaning up) the kitchen, but also refilling the buffet for our 131!

After lunch, the HFD Station #69 did a wonderful presentation in the truck bay area. Those who attended met the fire fighters and, with Q&A, enjoyed a close up of the fire fighters' uniforms for fire and non-fire events. Children received “Goodie Bags” containing age appropriate fire prevention materials, home family information window stickers, crayons, bookmarks, etc.

Some of the attendees had the
(Continued on Page 2.)

chance to get into the fire truck and see the control panels and hear the warning sirens/horns. Some children even got to try on the firemen uniforms!

As a "Thank You", Station #69 enjoyed our lunch buffet extras.

Due to our limited space, we did not have the chance to engage in our picnic games, but we had a good time just the same.

THANKS to the attendees' flexibility and understanding of the last minute changes! THANKS to the members who willingly and efficiently helped to set up and tear down the room of tables and chairs. All that was left was for me to mop the floor!

The experience was an adventure, for sure!"



Wearing unofficial fire hats at the picnic are Chris, daughter, and Katie, granddaughter of Terri and Tony Lombardo.

Our Condolences to:

Charles "Chip" and Doreen Snyder on the passing of his brother, Michael Snyder.

John and Dee Viscardi on the passing of their daughter, Angela Scheuerman.

Congratulations to:

Scott and Anita Bomberger on celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary on September 6th.

Rudy and Ann DeLaurentis on celebrating their 40th Wedding Anniversary on September 16th.

Michael and Christina Jemison on the birth of a son, Philip Scott, on August 2nd.

His grandparents are Charles "Chip" and Doreen Snyder.



The ingredients are simple: semolina wheat, water, and salt. The serving preparation is similarly uncomplicated: gamey mutton broth and a helping of tangy pecorino cheese. Making the pasta, however, is nearly impossible. Engineers from the Barilla pasta company attempted, unsuccessfully, to build a machine that could reproduce the technique. Celebrity chef Jamie Oliver also visited Sardinia in hopes of mastering the elusive noodle. After two hours, he gave up.

Paola Abraini, one of the masters of su filindeu, says the hardest part is "understanding the dough with your hands." She kneads the mixture until it feels like modeling clay, then continues working it into rounded strands. When the semolina lacks elasticity, she dips her fingers in a bowl of salt water. When it needs moisture, unsalted water does the trick. The balance, says Abraini, "can take years to understand."

When the consistency reaches perfection, Abraini stretches the dough, doubling it again and again. After eight rounds of layering, she's left with 256 delicate strands resting in her hands. She gingerly stretches the fine threads over a circular, wooden frame, crisscrossing three layers of noodles over one another. Then, leaving sufilindeu to dry in the sun, Abraini makes some more of the strands that almost no one else can.

By: Rachel Rummel

Threads of God

Twice a year, pilgrims in Sardinia trek from the city of Nuoro to the village of Lula under cover of night. They walk in solidarity, forgoing sleep and shelter—sometimes by the hundreds, sometimes by the thousand. Twenty miles later, at the entrance of Santuario di San Francesco, they reach their destination.

These seekers persist not to find the sanctuary itself, but to eat what may be the rarest pasta in the world. Su filindeu—literally "threads of God" in Sardo—is unfathomably intricate. It's made by only three women on Earth, all of whom live on Sardinia. And they make it only for the biannual Feast of San Francesco. It's been this way for the last 200 years.

Membership Report

As of October 2018, we have 189 members/families.

Welcome New Members!

- Marc Breton & Abbie Rebecca Hevner
- Anthony Buccitelli & Wen Hong Luo
- John & Cheryl Stockman

Thank you for joining our family!

Get Well Wishes to:

John Viscardi

Alberobello, Southern Italy's Spinning Top Village.



In 1644, the King of Naples sent tax collectors intermittently to the Puglia region, near the town of Alberobello. Although under the rule of the Spanish, the Kingdom of Naples was a powerful force in Italy at the time and one of the biggest cities in all of Europe.

Fearing the immense power of the Kingdom, the local lord Count Acquaviva, needed to create a feudal settlement that could be dismantled easily to avoid a settlement tax. To accomplish that end, he forced local people into trullo houses that could be easily taken apart. **Trullo houses had been in use in the region for hundreds of years, and were mortarless domed houses, topped off with a pointed conical roof. Since they had drystone walls, they could be built or destroyed very quickly.**

After years of feudal control by Acquaviva, the town of Alberobello finally overthrew the count and were granted royal town status by the King of Naples. Although they threw out their overseer, they kept the style of their house and the town has remained close to its roots for the last 200 years.

Alberobello is famed for its bright whitewashed houses, each with a miniature spire reaching toward the heavens and strange symbol adorning its roof. The town offers visitors a chance to revisit the history of Italy from ancient times up through the brutal feudal period of the 17th century in Puglia. *By: Atlas Obscura*



Manna of St. Nicholas of Bari



A dead saint, a deadly poison, and a mysterious holy ooze.

"I know I must die; someone has given me Aqua Tofana." Mozart told his wife on his deathbed in 1791. Wolfgang was referring to an infamous poison, reputedly odorless and tasteless that was widely suspected of having killed hundreds of people in Italy a century earlier.

Aqua Tofana and its creator, a Sicilian lady named (maybe) Teofania de Adamo, are discussed as fact in a variety of early 18th century sources, but as the original story has blended with elaborate, macabre fiction it has become difficult to determine what, if anything, is the actual truth. The poison itself was described as a solution or arsenic, either as a light and delicate powder or a clear and odorless liquid, both deadly and untraceable. Vials of this stealthy poison were sold to the ladies of Rome and Naples for the purposes of dispatching inconvenient husbands. Before she was hanged for her crimes - accused of helping kill some 600 people - she allegedly passed on the deadly secret to her daughter, who went on distributing the poison,

disguised in innocent looking delicate glass jars decorated with images of the Saint Nicholas of Bari.

St. Nicholas (better known to most in his modern incarnation as Santa Claus), was a 4th century bishop from the area of Myra, in modern Turkey. Like many very early Christian saints, very little is probably known about his life, but his legacy is filled with stories of miracles and acts of good will, including his famous anonymous gift giving. When he died in 346, he was buried and his remains revered as holy relics. In the years after his death, his tomb was said to give off a sweet smell, and to weep a mysterious liquid which would cure those who touched it. Of course, pilgrims flocked to Myra for the privilege.

But then, after the conquest of Turkey by the Muslim Seljuq Turks in 1071, a plan was hatched to rescue the saint's remains, and transport them safely to Christian territory in Southern Italy. In 1087, his relics were stolen and brought to Bari by a group of sailors, whereafter the relics were re-interred in a new basilica built for the purpose. Miraculously, after being placed in their new home in Bari, the new marble tomb also began to excrete the sweet smelling holy liquid, known as the Manna of Saint Nicholas.

This manna - described by early reports as an oil, but revealed more recently to be water - was widely believed to be a cure-all. For hundreds of years now, the manna has been collected, mixed with holy water and bottled in small glass vials decorated with icons of the saint for sale to pilgrims.

The bones and the manna production remained an undisturbed miracle until 1953, when restoration work at the basilica required the moving of the relics. A study was allowed and led by Luigi Martino, professor of human anatomy at the University of Bari. When the tomb was opened, the incomplete skeleton was found to be

resting in a shallow pool of liquid. Studies revealed it to be that of a slight man in his 70s, matching the traditional story of St. Nicholas' death at age 74. The relics were left on a linen sheet, which was seen to collect moisture even as the study continued. At the end of the construction in 1957, the bones were reinterred, where they have continued to weep manna.

For years there had been debate over the validity of relics also claimed as Saint Nicholas located in Venice. In 1992, Luigi Martino, the same anatomy professor who examined the relics in Bari, conducted an examination of bones claimed to be in Venice. While not reaching a formal conclusion, he determined that the bones in Venice were both similar and complimentary, and may in fact be different pieces of the same person. The explanation? The sailors from Bari were in a big hurry when they first took the relics, and may have only grabbed the bigger pieces of the skeleton, leaving bits and pieces for the Venetian crusaders to grab when they stopped by a few years later. The venetian relics can be visited at the Chiesa di San Nicoló, Lido, Venice, Italy.

There are many theories about the origins of the manna, from fraud to a capillary action of the stone tomb sucking up ground or sea water and redistributing it at the tomb. Whatever the case, the little bottles of manna traveled throughout the Christian world, a popular household item by the time the Aqua Tofana scandal emerged in the 1700s (or possibly the 1600s).

It is fair to say that Italian women have been widely vilified as consummate poisoners. From Catherine de Medici to the Borgias in lurid romances involving mysterious deaths and wicked women, the poisoners were almost always Italian. For the most part, these claims seem to be wildly exaggerated, but it is still possible that there is a core of truth to the Aqua Tofana legend, as there seem to first hand reports. Either way, it is certain that the story traveled far and wide, and

was largely believed to be true. By the time Mozart lay dying, it was commonly accepted as fact. In truth, although he may have feared that had been poisoned, odds are more in favor of that copious bloodletting led to his demise.

The collection of the holy Manna of St. Nicholas happens annually on May 9th in Bari, and his saint's day is celebrated annually on Dec 6th. The sailors who brought the saint's body to Bari are buried around the church walls, and remembered in carvings around the exterior walls of Basilica San Nicola. The tomb of St. Nicholas is in the crypt. You can still purchase small glass vials of manna. *By: Atlas Obscura*



Hundreds Of Gold Coins Dating To Rome's Imperial Era Found In Italy



It was an amphora, not a pot, but archaeologists found a literal jackpot in a dig in northern Italy last week. No word on if there was a rainbow.

Hundreds of gold coins dating from Rome's late Imperial era, the 4th or 5th century, were found at a dig in Como, Italy, according to the Italian Ministry of Culture.

The ministry shared photos of the shiny coins, which were spilling out of an amphora -- a Roman jar with two handles -- buried in the dirt. Minister Alberto Bonisoli said the discovery "fills me with pride." "We do not yet know in detail the historical and cultural significance of the finding," Bonisoli said in Italian on Facebook, "but that area is proving to be a true treasure for our archaeology."

By: Mark Osborne

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Don't forget to buy your raffle tickets! Or return the tickets. 3 big prizes: \$1,000, \$500 & \$250.



More picnic photos on pages 5 & 6.

Summer Picnic Photos!



"People enjoyed the close proximity, as some shared with me that they really were able to talk with more people as they enjoyed the delicious food from Enck's Catering."





The young fireman, at left, explained that the fire suit and equipment weighed 60 to 80 pounds. He said that he weighed 150 lbs., and that he had to be able to carry/drag a 160 lb. person at least 175 feet to safety, while wearing the suit with the equipment.

Thank you volunteer fire fighters for all that you do to keep us safe!



LANCASTER
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Lancaster Italian Cultural Society's November 2018 General Meeting

Date: Sunday, November 11, 2018

Times: 12:00 - Social
1:00 - Luncheon Buffet
2:15 - Program

Place: *Bolger Conference Center, Lehr Dining Room* on the Millersville University Campus, 40 James Street, Millersville, PA.

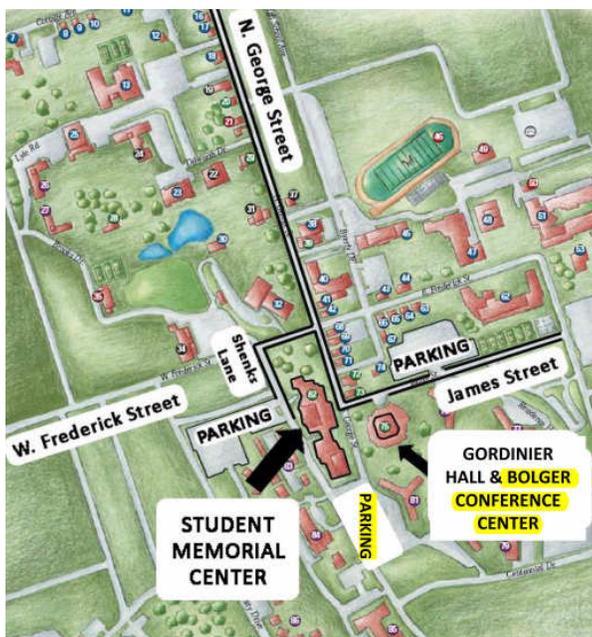
Directions: From Lancaster: PA-999 (Millersville Pike) watch for the fork in the road and bear left onto George Street. Proceed on George Street, past Frederick Street and turn left onto James Street. Parking for Bolger Conference Center is on the left. The Bolger Conference Center is located on the second floor of Gordinier Hall.

Genealogy: Do You Know Your Family's Genealogy Story?

Presented by **Rebecca Rinehard**, *Director of the
LDS Family History Center/Family Researcher*

Rebecca will talk about family genealogy with an introduction to Family Search.org Website and Family History Center.

Luncheon: Beef Tips with Mushrooms, Sherry and Garlic Sauce, Stuffed Shells with Marinara Sauce, Caesar Salad, Squash, Apple and Cranberry Bake, Fresh Vegetable Stir Fry, Assorted Cookie Tray, Coffee, Tea and Iced Tea.



LICS Member Cost is \$22 per person, and \$25 per guest

Please RSVP with the form below by Wednesday, October 31, 2018

The public is invited to attend this timely program, please RSVP early. Attendance is limited to 100.

Make checks payable to **LICS** and send with registration form to:

Ann Marie Petrone, 342 N. Duke St., Lancaster, PA 17602. Phone: 717-393-8271

No. Attending _____ Genealogy Program November 11, 2018

Member Name(s) _____ **Phone #** _____

Guest Name(s) _____ **Phone #** _____

No. Members @ \$22 _____ **No. Guests @ \$25** _____ **Total Amount Enclosed \$** _____

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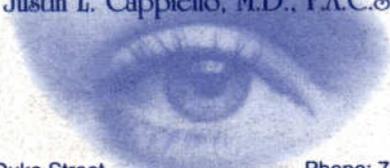
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The Lancaster Italian Cultural Society
cordially invites you to our Christmas Dinner Party
Sunday, December 9, 2018, at the Eden Resort,
222 Eden Road, Lancaster, PA.

Social Hour ~ 12:00 p.m.
Fresh Vegetable & Cheese Display
Hot Hors D'oeuvre

Dinner and Entertainment ~ 1:00 - 4:00

Choice of Dinner Entrees:

Eggplant Rollatini OR Chicken Piccata



LANCASTER
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*Encore
Performance*



LICS is again proud to present Billy and Ryan Logue as the entertainers for our Christmas Party. If you attended last year, you will remember an exciting and entertaining performance. The father and son singing duo will show their versatility by performing music from all genres. Their renditions of classic hits by Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett and Michael Buble have thrilled audiences. In 2008, they were selected to perform at the Frank Sinatra Birthday Bash in NJ.

The program will include music from these and other artists in addition to Christmas songs. Please plan to attend and celebrate the holiday season with family and friends.

At this event, we will draw the three winning raffle tickets for the LICS Education Initiative fundraiser. Winners do not need to be present to win.

As part of our effort to support the community, LICS will donate its part of the proceeds from the 50/50 raffle to **Mom's House**, a program that provides child care, parenting and life skills classes while empowering single parents to complete their education and find employment.

The price for the dinner is \$35 per person.

Kindly RSVP and return the bottom of this form before: December 1, 2018.

Checks to **LICS** and send to: Ann Marie Petrone, 342 N. Duke St., Lancaster, PA 17602 (393-8271)

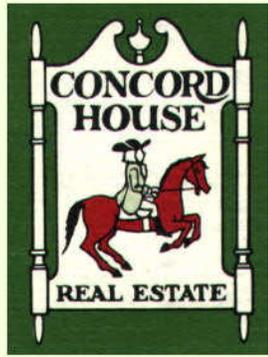
✂ ----- ✂ ----- ✂

Number Attending Christmas Party _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Please indicate **name** and **choice of entree**:

Name _____ Chicken _____ Eggplant _____

Phone # _____



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Event Flyers Inside!

L'OSSERVATORE LANCASTRIANO October 2018

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Upcoming LICS Events

Women's Luncheon - 12:30 p.m., Nov. 7, 2018

Call Dolores Biedenkapp at 717- 394-3823 for more information & to make a reservation.

Sunday, Nov. 11, 2018 - General Meeting & Luncheon

Bolger Conference Center, Lehr Dining Room on the Millersville University Campus

Genealogy: Do You Know Your Family's Genealogy Story?

Presented by Rebecca Rinehard, Director of the LDS Family History Center

Begins at Noon

Sunday, Dec. 9, 2018 - Christmas Dinner Party

Eden Resort, 222 Eden Road, Lancaster, PA

Noon to 4 PM - with Entertainers Billy and Ryan Logue