

In This Issue: Francesco Vigo, "Hoosier Hero"; Find Us on Facebook!

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Lancaster Italian Cultural Society

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LANCASTER
ITALIAN
CULTURAL
SOCIETY



L'Osservatore Lancastriano

LICS now has a Facebook Page!

Our sincere thanks to Mike Sheely of MAXSolutions/Michael Sheely Photography (www.facebook.com/MAXSolutions) for helping to setup the LICS' Facebook page. And thanks to Mary Cae Williams for being our Facebook page administrator. Please find and share us on Facebook (click on photo below). We need your comments, likes, helpful sharing of recipes and all things Italian. Grazie mille.



Lancaster Italian Cultural Society

This org. was formed to promote/share an appreciation/awareness of the Italian culture/heritage

So, you never got to spend time in the kitchen with your nonna and we all know she never wrote down her recipes, nor did she measure. Here is the nonna and the directions you long to have.

Gina makes Zucchini Soup, and gives a garden tour:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PNorwSkhUKw>

Click on the above link or photo to watch the video.



Summer Birthdays

Buon Compleanno ai membri!

Giugno (June):

Jay Butterfield, Greg Faiola, Frank Gross, Joyce Hart, Anthony Lombardo, Sr., Patricia Meyer, Janice A. Reick, Michael Nappi, Patricia Belforti, Janet L. Borghi, Anne Butterfield, Diane Ciro, Victoria A. Di Lazzaro, Sandra DeVito King, Dena M. Lombardo, Vaso Passas Russo, Bob Trimble, and Thresea A. Rettig.

Luglio (July):

Gus Flichia, John Day, Glenn Ebersole, John Gareis, Brandt Hackman, Nick Siviglia, Steve Weaver, Jaime Costanzo, Enrica Gerhart Betty Jo Grimm, Debra McDonald, and Debra Sardina.

Agosto (August):

Rudy DeLaurentis, Jeff Gerhart, Steve Iovino, Bill Kudrick, Kevin Lambert, James V. Lombardo, Jerry McDonald, Laura C. McNeill, Bill Valenzo, Peter Byrne, Sharon L. Criniti, and Marilyn D'Andrea Spica.

Italian Americans around the time of the War of Independence Francesco Vigo (December 13, 1747 - March 22, 1836) "Hoosier Hero", by Marian Caroselli.



Francesco Vigo (Giuseppe Maria Francesco Vigo) was born December 13, 1747, in the town of Mondovi in what is now northern Italy. Little is known of his early life until he joined a Spanish regiment and was sent to New Orleans, then a possession of Spain. After his discharge, Vigo entered the fur trade. By 1772, he was established as a merchant and trader in St. Louis in Spanish Upper Louisiana. Later, as a business associate of Spanish Lieutenant Governor Fernando de Leyba, Vigo was quite successful trading among the area's Indians and French settlers.

Vigo came to North America via Spain in 1772 to establish a fur trading post in Saint Louis. He became knowledgeable of the region's geography. When the American Revolution broke out, he joined the American cause. His most significant role was as a spy for George Rogers Clark, keeping him informed of British activity in what is now the state of Indiana and other parts of the Northwest. He was at one point captured by the Indians allied with the British but claimed status as a Spaniard and could not be held. Clark had captured the British outpost at Vincennes only to lose it again to the British.

During July 1778, George Rogers Clark and his force of 180 frontiersmen captured British-controlled but French-inhabited Kaskaskia and Cahokia across from St. Louis. Vigo, in St. Louis, decided to support Clark and the Americans by furnishing them with supplies from his own stores. In making this decision, Vigo no doubt was influenced by the assistance being given the Americans by Governor de Leyba. Vigo told Clark that the British intended to descend on the Americans at Kaskaskia in the spring and that they

would not expect the Americans to attack them at Vincennes during the winter. Thanks to Vigo's information, Clark's army surprised the British at Vincennes and defeated the redcoats. The fort was surrendered on Feb. 25, 1779.

Vigo loaned Clark money to pay the local inhabitants for needed goods and also furnished them with supplies from his own stores. Vigo's visible assistance was noted by the French and further solidified their support behind Clark.

After his release from captivity, Vigo traveled to see Clark and inform him that the outpost on the Wabash had been recaptured by the British. In 1779, Clark and his men recaptured Vincennes. Vigo also used his finances to help underwrite Clark's expenses, principally for Clark's failed effort to take Detroit. He was never repaid for his expenditures. After the war, he became active in the community and helped establish Jefferson Academy where he served as a Trustee. Later the name of Jefferson Academy was changed to Vincennes University.

Vigo's service to the United States continued during the remainder of the Revolution and during the years following. By 1783, Vigo had moved to Vincennes where he spent most of the next 50 years working in the fur trade and serving as a colonel in the militia.

Vigo's business affairs eventually suffered setbacks; virtually impoverished, he died at age 88 in 1836. He was buried in Greenlawn Cemetery in Vincennes. Prior to his death, Vigo had specified that a portion of any money received by his estate should be used to purchase a bell for the Vigo County Courthouse in Terre Haute, IN. Finally in 1875, almost a full century after the war, Vigo's estate was paid \$8,616 principal and \$41,282 in interest for his services both to Clark and to his country.

In 1934, sculptor John Angel was commissioned to prepare a suitable statue of Vigo to be placed on the park grounds adjacent to the George Rogers Clark Memorial. On May 4, 1936, the 10-ton granite work was positioned where it overlooks the Wabash River. For the thousands of visitors to the George Rogers Clark National Historical Park, the Vigo statue serves as a fitting tribute to the contributions of this important American patriot. Other than that and a commemorative postage stamp issued in his honor, Vigo has been lost in the dustbin of history. *Finito.*

'Al Fresco' in Italy Has a Very Different Meaning Than Everywhere Else



According to theculturetrip.com, "Before traveling to Italy, you should know that there are several expressions that don't mean exactly what you think. So, buy a dictionary and try to learn a few sentences that you'll need to use during your Italian tour.

Italian is a rich language with a lot of typical expressions. For strangers, it can be very hard to learn them all, but with a little help, it is possible to say the right thing. 'Al fresco', for example, is a typical expression used in Italian...but in two different ways.

Italians use the expression 'al fresco' to mean 'in the chill' or 'in the cool'. For example, when they want to convey keeping things in the right places, they'd say 'keep the cheese al fresco'. But these words have also another meaning.

When tourists are in a restaurant and want to eat outside, they usually say they want to eat 'al fresco'. This is a funny mistake. In Italian, the expression has a completely different meaning. 'Al fresco' literally means 'in prison'! The reason why it means that is probably because in the past, prisons were very cold places with thick walls ('fresco' means 'cold').

So, don't be angry if, when you say: 'I'd love to eat al fresco', the waiter laughs, because you are actually telling him: 'I want to eat in prison'!

Member News: Members, please send us any news about member accomplishments, awards, graduations, engagements, marriage, births, and deaths. Please email member news to:

LICSnewsletter@gmail.com

The right sentence you need to say is: 'Vorrei mangiare fuori' or, 'I'd love to eat outside'. Note it down on your agenda to remember it for your next Italian trip, and let the waiter know that you want to eat in the open air and not in prison."

Lunch at Lombardo's by Mary Cae Williams



It's such a pleasure to see our world opening up again. My husband and I were blessed to be able to go out for lunch on a Friday in June. We jumped at the opportunity to go to the "all-new" Lombardo's. It was a wonderful experience. The space is familiar and new at the same time. Rooms have been opened up and the feel is spacious and clean with a "big-city" vibe. We loved our food. We ordered cocktails, which were just unique enough to be interesting without being too unpredictable. We shared an individual pizza and a panino, both of them were with pulled-pork and broccoli di rape. The pizza was especially delicious, with that yummy, slightly burned bottom crust that makes you dream of wood-fired ovens in Italy. The panino was perfect, too. We decided to share a dessert we had never tried before, affogato, and it exceeded our expectations. Our espresso was just right, too. The service was attentive without interrupting our time together. The only sad part of our lunch was that it was over too soon. We are looking forward to the time when we can make a dinner date and try the evening experience. Thanks, folks, for reopening and renovating.

Members, please submit your dining experiences at local Italian-American Restaurants. Include what dishes are your favorites and any insider tips or information to make the dining experience molto bene for our members. LICSnewsletter@gmail.com

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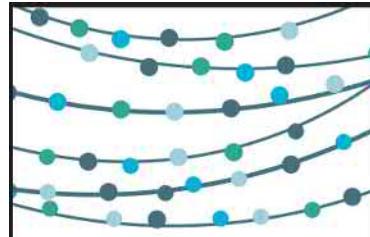
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