

This Issue: Pasquetta, IA Service Award!

LICS Bollettino Periodico

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Lancaster Italian Cultural Society

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LANCASTER  
ITALIAN  
CULTURAL  
SOCIETY



# L'Osservatore Lancastriano

*Carissimi amici,*

Thank you for nominating and electing me to be the next president of the Lancaster Italian Cultural Society. This will be my third time to serve in this position. Since day one, it has been my pleasure and pride to be part of this organization.

The last two years have been difficult for everyone to cope with the Covid 19 virus; we have missed each other, but we have all done our best to be safe, staying strong, healthy, and persevering with Hope no matter what. We will make this a New Beginning. We will work together to rekindle our friendships and to move forward to new and established ventures.

I invite you to write or call me with your thoughts, wishes, ideas and the willingness to help in some capacity, I am only a phone call away.

May God bless us all and all the days to come.

Sempre con affetto per tutti,

*Nella*

PS: Please accept my sincere thank you to Rosemarie LaFata, the entire board and the newsletter/bollettino staff for their great job in leading the society during the last two challenging years. You kept us "above water", Bravi!



Above: Josephine & Sebastiano Santoro, Helen Ebersole, Pete Costanzo, John Day, Tony Fisichella, Nella Seward (newly elected president), and Rosemary LaFata.

"When we talk about our Winter Picnic, we have to give our abundant thanks to outgoing President, Rosemary LaFata. Her leadership, energy, steadfastness, and dedication have kept us going through two of the most trying years we could have imagined. And...ending her tenure on such a fabulous note. The luncheon, the space, the event were molto, molto bene. Grazie miliardi (si, that's exactly what we mean to say)!" (Grazie miliardi translates to billions of thanks.) - Mary Cae Williams



## LICS 2022 Board of Directors:

Anthony Fisichella

John Day

J.D. Roda -Treasurer

Livia Riley -

Dee Viscardi

Helen Ebersole

Nella Seward - President

Pattie Meyer,

Jennie Hubbs - Vice President

Dolores Biedenkapp

Deb Saporetti - Secretary (not in photo)

Peter Mastropietro (not in photo)

**Buona fortuna to the new Board Members!**



(Left to right: Ken Riley, Roseann Bozochovic, Anita Bomberger, and Pattie Meyer)

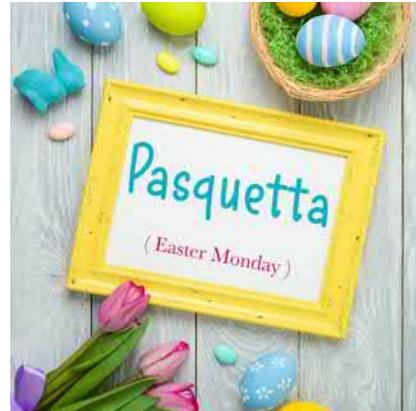


(Above: Bill Valenzo, Joe Di Lazzaro, and Rosemary LaFata)

Our newly elected president, Nella Seward, passed the “jar” to collect money for support to the Ukrainian refugees. Joe and Victoria Di Lazzaro were the winners of the 50-50 drawing. Victoria’s heritage is Ukrainian and, obviously, they both have generosity in their background, as well. Joe announced that they would be putting their winnings into the collection for Ukraine. What a moving day. *Mary Cae Williams*

**Thank you so much to everyone who helped make our Winter Picnic a wonderful event:** Rosemary LaFata, Dee Viscardi, Livia Riley, Dolores Biedenkapp, Mary Cae Williams, David Ferruzza, Pete Costanzo, Rudy DeLaurentis, Marianne & Allesandro Rossini, Pat & Bill Valenzo, Ann & Pete Byrne, Kathy Fisichella, Steve Iovino, Stella Seger and Bob LaFata. We enjoyed ourselves so much!

**Cesanese** - The ancient Romans gave birth to a local vine variety they called Cesanese. They started to chop down the hills in this area to make room for the vineyards. That’s what “Cesanese” means: it comes from the Latin word cesae referring to a place with chopped trees. The Cesanese di Affile DOC wine is a ruby red, light-bodied and soft wine.



### **La Pasquetta by Nella Seward**

La Pasquetta, in Italy, is celebrated everywhere. Because it is a religious holiday, it is also called “Il Lunedì dell’Angelo”. It is the Monday after Easter, when the women went to Jesus’ tomb and met an Angel who told them that Jesus was risen and would meet them.

The celebration consists of spending time with families doing “scampagnata.” It is a picnic on the hills, or shores or parks, enjoying different foods and games with friends and families. It is a happy time after fasting for 40 days and the good news of the Resurrection.

On that day, my father used to take all nine of us to one of the hills of Rome to enjoy the fresh air, to eat fresh fave beans with Pecorino Romano, wonderful home made bread, colored eggs left over from the day before, lots of fruit and chocolate treats and a most wonderful wine called Cesanese from Subiaco, the town where my paternal grandparents came from. Sometimes, on that day, my father would choose to take us to fish at the Aniene River (a tributary of the Tiber) where we would catch a lot of Trout.

Those Pasquetta Mondays will be always planted in my heart and mind.



"I was honored to present the 2021 Lancaster Italian American Service award to Rudy DeLaurentis. He was a founding member of the society back in 1999 and a three term President. He produces and operates the LICS website as well as the digital newsletter and bulletin. Congrats Rudy!" - Pete Costanzo

### **Italian American Service Award for 2021** *by Mary Cae Williams*

Rudy DeLaurentis has done many things to promote Italian Culture as well as other activities that enrich our thriving community here in Lancaster.

Rudy's activities read like a list of responses to opportunities to serve. He entered a photo show sponsored by the Lancaster Summer Arts Festival, then became a major volunteer, and eventually served as president of LSAF, developing programs, creating a newsletter, and generally helping the organization to grow and expand.

Rudy, a licensed Realtor/broker/appraiser, in the 1980's volunteered to help with the newsletter for the Lancaster County Association of Realtors. This led to his serving on the board of directors, becoming an officer and then becoming president of LCAR.

Rudy has volunteered at St. Mary's Church since he and Ann were married in 1978, as a lector, teaching CCD classes, and serving as a Eucharistic Minister.

More recently, Rudy was a board member on the Lancaster City Zoning Hearing Board for 11 years, five of which he served as board chairperson.

In the late 1990s, he saw a letter from Al Rossi about the impending demise of the Italian-American Citizen's Club, of which of he had fond childhood memories. He remembered the Christmas parties and running around with the other kids every Sunday while the men played cards and the women made Sicilian-style pizza and meatballs. The kids would run around

and the adults would tell them to settle down and they continued to run around. Life was just good. Later in the day, folks would arrive to buy the pizza and meatballs as carry out. "My dad would often ask for a taste, while the women were cooking and sometimes they would give me a little slice and a meatball, too," Rudy reminisced. Unfortunately, "As we grew up, we grew away from the club".

It seemed that as years went on, support for the IACC declined, and it became necessary to sell the building. From Rudy's perspective, the younger generation did not appreciate what was going on until it was too late to change the situation.

Rudy talked with Al Rossi and planned a meeting to discuss options and support for Italian Culture in Lancaster. They let the newspapers know (we had two daily papers, not that long ago) and turnout for the first meeting was very strong. At a subsequent meeting, they decided to form a new group. Rudy suggested the name and it was voted into being. The Lancaster Italian Cultural Society was born.

They held an organizational meeting at Faiella's, which was on the corner of Columbia Avenue and Jackson Drive, where Meals on Wheels is now located. The group asked Al Rossi to be their first president, but he preferred the role of vice president. He suggested that Rudy become the president. And so it was. Rudy served as president; Al Rossi served as vice president; J. D. Roda served as treasurer (the role he is once again performing;) Lyza Valenzo, Nella's daughter, served as secretary. Nella Seward, our newly elected President, served on this original board, too. Many current members, who have supported the Society in numerous ways, were members from this auspicious beginning.

They decided to meet nearly once a month, mostly at the Italian Villa East, on Lincoln Highway East. In those days, attendance was very strong, often with more than 100 people showing up. They developed programs that have been mainstays over the years: the Christmas Party, the Summer Picnic, the Winter Picnic, which was held March 20 this year, and numerous cultural presentations.

"People were involved, who wanted to recapture their childhood cultural experiences," said Rudy. "LICS includes members whose families were from all over Italy. There are members whose ancestors immigrated to America many generations ago, and members who more recently moved here from Italy as adults." And, there are non-Italian members, who are welcomed warmly, we could add.

Grazie mille, Rudy, for your faithful service.



## Street Names and Their Significance (Part 1)

By *Marian Caroselli*

### Popular Street Names in US and Lancaster

While traveling in the US, we often come across the same street names from town to town.

Of course there are Market Street and Broad Street. There are streets named after our various presidents and heroes such as Washington and Martin Luther King. We have our numerical streets and avenues. Surprisingly there are more 2nd streets than First streets, perhaps since First Street was often renamed Main St. We have a litany of streets named after flowers and trees, reflecting the geography and culture of the area.

In all of the US, High Street is the most frequently appearing name followed by Station Road and Main St. You always know what you'll find on Church Street, Park Street and Airport Rd.

Here in Lancaster, we have Buchanan Avenue, after our less than stellar president. Many streets are named after families such as Charles, Kauffman, Lehman and Martin. The principal east-west road through Lancaster was named for King George. Before James Hamilton began choosing street names, King Street was known as High Street.

Queen Street, the principal north-south road through town was named for George's consort, Caroline. The prince was the Prince of Wales. The duke was the Duke of Cumberland.

Orange Street recognized the royal house of King William III, but Lancaster's other streets with fruit names did not refer to royalty. Anti-German sentiment during World War I prompted Freiburg Street to become Pershing Avenue, and German Street was renamed Farnum Street. In 1954, Lafayette Place was renamed Temple Avenue.

It is interesting to stop and consider street names that pop out at you while traveling and to use them as a way to get to know a country through its history. The most common street and plaza names in Italy are: Via Roma (7,870 streets), Via Garibaldi (5,472 streets), Via Marconi (4,842 streets), Giuseppe Mazzini (3,994 streets), Dante Alighieri (3,793 streets), Cavour,

(3,334 streets) Giacomo Matteotti (3,292 streets), Giuseppe Verdi (3,000 streets) Cesar Battisti (2,657 streets) and Aldo Moro (2,628 streets).

In Rome there are several streets with historical significance, such as Via della Conciliazione and Via XX Settembre among others. Over the next few months, let's consider some street and plaza names in Italy. It's a fun way to learn about history and should make your next trip to Italy, be it in person or armchair, a bit more meaningful.

(The next Bollettino will feature Part 2 of a continuing series and will be about the 10 Top Street Names in Italy.)

### Reminder - Annual Dues Renewal Notice

Members, you should have received your annual dues renewal, by now. If you have renewed, thank you! If you did not receive an invoice, please contact LICs' Treasurer J.D. Roda, 717-898-7969. Annual dues are \$40. Payment by credit card is available. Grazie!

Please send us member news to include in the Bollettino and Newsletter. We miss hearing about you. Email us at: [LICSnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:LICSnewsletter@gmail.com).

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