



Buon Natale e Buon Anno

*The Newsletter of the
Lancaster Italian Cultural Society
Volume 24 Issue 2 December 2022*

L'Osservatore Lancastriano

Buongiorno a tutti,

The leaves are falling, the trees and the earth are covered with the most brilliant colors of red, orange, yellow, green, white, brown. What a wonderful artist God is! Enjoy our colorful Autumn, it does not last very long.

I know many of you have been waiting to have more information about our possible 2023 trip to Italy. Finally I have something to share.

The tour that we picked: **Country Roads of Southern Italy and Sicily** is a very popular trip. I did it twice before and would love to do it again, just for and with you. The date offered to us was May 15, 2023 to May 28 (14 days), and because all the other dates were totally booked for groups, Insight Travel will organize a private tour for us. The group must be 20 to 25 people and I must make the reservation by the middle of December 2022. I have asked the travel agent to look also at September 2023 as a possible date.

The cost, without the plane fare is around \$4,800, the tax, transfers, insurance, etc. are not included at this time. To familiarize yourself with the fantastic itinerary, kindly use this link:

<https://www.insightvacations.com/en-us/tours/country-roads-of-southern-italy-sicily> or Google it using the title of the trip under the Insight Travel company. You may also call me at 717-725-6500 for additional questions.

I hope to see you at the Christmas Party on December 17th at the Conestoga Country Club.

Arrivederci a presto, Nella Seward

We welcome new member **Oneida D. DeLuca** to the LICS family. We hope to meet and greet you soon.

This newsletter, along with past issues are available online: www.lancaster-italian-cultural-society.org



Spaghetti Dinner 2022 by Pattie Meyer

What a wonderful time everyone had at our 2022 Spaghetti Dinner on October 8th in St. Anthony of Padua Church's cafeteria! The food, fellowship and entertainment were superb. We estimated 289 dinners were served; and we raised over \$3,000 for the yearly Education Initiative.

Rich DeSimone entertained the crowd with popular tunes from the Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin eras; which brought many on their feet to the dance floor (even the children!) with everyone singing along with him. Louis Abbatiello also entertained the crowd with his humorous puppet and magic tricks.

A HUGE THANK YOU goes to our wonderful Sponsors: **Snyder Funeral Home and Pasquale's Restaurant and Pizzeria**; and all of those businesses who donated items to defray the cost of the dinner: **Kegel Produce, The Restaurant Store, Sharpe Shopper** in Leola, **Grocery Outlet** in Rohrestown, **Bimbo Bakeries USA, COSTCO, and Stauffer's of Kissel Hill**. We truly appreciate your generosity and support.

THANK YOU, also, to all of the wonderful volunteer workers who made the dinner a success; and all of those who supported our dinner this year by purchasing tickets. Stay healthy and we are looking forward to seeing all of you next year.

Our condolences to Judy Siviglia and family, on the passing of her husband, Nick. Nella expressed to me that "He was absolutely a great person. I was privileged to know him and be a friend to him and Judy." I believe we all feel that way and will miss him greatly. God bless you, Nick and Judy.

Message from Dee Viscardi

Dear members and dedicated trip guests,

It has been my pleasure to plan and coordinate trips for you, but I am sorry to say I am no longer going to continue leading trips. I'm hoping there is someone who would like to continue where I left off.

I will be available for any questions they may have and also assist, if need be.

I am doing reservations for any and all events run by the Lancaster Italian Cultural Society, so that already is one thing the new trip coordinator would not have to do.

Please contact our president Nella Seward or me if you might be interested in filling this position.

Thank you, be well, be safe and God Bless.

Dee Viscardi

Upcoming LICS Events

Saturday, December 17 - **Christmas Party**, At The Conestoga Country Club. 5 to 10:30 PM, \$65.00 pp. Limited to 80 attendees.

Ladies Luncheon - Every 1st Wednesday of the month. Please watch for locations' announcement.

Look for all the details regarding our activities in the Bollettino, the Newsletter, the Eblast, and on the LICS' Website.



Bravi to the Kitchen Team at the Spaghetti Dinner!

Country Roads of Southern Italy and Sicily Trip in 2023

<https://www.insightvacations.com/en-us/tours/country-roads-of-southern-italy-sicily>

Learn the Secrets to Living "la Dolce Vita" During This 2-Week Guided Tour of Italy



Indulge in Italy's finest food and views during this 2-week guided tour. When in Rome, you will toss a coin into the Trevi Fountain during a walking tour with a Local Expert. At the Vatican Museums, get a behind-the-scenes look at the Bramante Staircase, a winding masterpiece normally closed to the public. In Sorrento, settle into a luxurious resort and take in the views of Mount Vesuvius, which buried Pompeii in a sea of lava in 79 A.D. A restaurant's founder will share why he uses only organic ingredients that he grows himself, and you will indulge in those freshly picked vegetables during a farm-to-table dinner featuring fresh orecchiette pasta. In Palermo, a historian will take you through the old city, showing you its cathedral and the Palatine Chapel in the Palace of the Normans, where glittering 12th century mosaics will surely take your breath away.

Day 1 Welcome to the Eternal City of Rome

Day 2 Rome with the locals

Day 3 VIP Vatican, St. Peter's Basilica & on to Sorrento

Day 4 Capri, the Isle of Dreams

Day 5 Pompeii and Alberobello

Day 6 The Trulli of Alberobello

Day 7 Alberobello at Leisure

Day 8 Journey South to Matera

Day 9 To Sicily and the Taormina Riviera

Day 10 Free Time on the Taormina Riviera

Day 11 A New Dawn in Sicily

Day 12 Agrigento, the Valley of the Temples

Day 13 Palermo and the Golden Age of the Normans

Toast to your travels - Celebration Dinner

Day 14 Depart Palermo



Above: Members dancing to music by Frank Sinatra (Rich DeSimone) at the Spaghetti Dinner.



What is love? by Nella Seward

What is love? And how can one count the ways? Here is a true story that will make you think and perhaps give us answers.

I had just turned 17 when I arrived in the US. I was attending my senior year and returning home on the school bus. As I approached my house, I noticed on the steps leading to the enclosed porch, a very small bird, maybe a sparrow, struggling to stand up as its wings fluttered frantically. This immediately caught my attention. Carefully I picked it up, held him in my hand, and caressed him. He was scared, trying to get away from me, but he was unable to stand or fly. He was just too small and probably fell from his nest in the nearby tree. As I was consoling the little thing, my father arrived from his work. He saw me and quickly came to inspect the event. Very gently, he took the little sparrow, caressed his head, and immediately he called him "Bello." As soon as he checked Bello, he told me that one of his legs was broken and Bello was still too young to fly. "I will fix his leg," he said. In the kitchen, my father took a wooden toothpick, cut it to a small size and gently, carefully, applied it to the broken leg of the bird wrapping it with a soft thread to keep it steady. Next, he got some wet bread crumbs, put them on the edge of his lips and guided the bird to feed himself from his mouth, as the bird's mother would have done.

This process went on, over and over that day and every day. Bello would stay in a man-made nest in the enclosed porch, a little water near him and was visited and loved by everyone. Every day my father would talk to him, call him Bello, perch him on his index finger, place him on his shoulder, and walk with him, as little by little, Bello was getting stronger. I felt jealous of this affection. After all I was the one who

found the little creature! But my father and Bello formed a personal, close relationship. They were anxious to see each other and perform those little rituals that united them in this affectionate relationship. Sometime Bello came into the house, perching on a table lamp or another, waiting, just waiting for my father.


Finally, the day came that Bello's leg was healed. The wings were grown full and strong. It was time to let go. So, one day, my father put him on his index finger, went outside the house and said to him in Italian: "Va bene Bello. E' ora che tu torni alla tua Natura. Stai bene, puoi tornare a casa". He caressed him, kissed him on his head and with a quick shift of his arm he said, "Go". Bello did not move, one, two, three times. He kept kissing my father's cheek. Then, on the next push, he flew to a close by branch, but he immediately returned to my father's shoulder. It took several times before Bello got the message. It was very moving for me watching this departing exchange.

After this, day after day, for many other weeks, Bello waited for my father returning from work, and always would fly to his shoulder to greet him with a peck kiss to his cheek.

Later in life, I heard that if you love somebody, let him go. If that love belongs to you, it will return to you. At seventeen, I did not know this, but, in my old age, I know now one thing, that in my life I must have loved much, because I feel love all over me. I remember at the age of ten, I was Confirmed by the Church to receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, so, at that time, I asked Jesus, if He really wanted to give me a gift, let it be Love. On the day that I met Bello, Jesus answered my prayer.



Nella, age 10, with her father at her Confirmation



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Above: Our Experience Sicily Cooking Tour group.

Touring Sicily by Rudy DeLaurentis

This past September, my wife Ann and I had the good fortune to visit the west coast of Sicily for two weeks. The first week included a cooking tour, where we visited the Mercato del Capo, the oldest outdoor market in Palermo. There, we got to see all of the fresh produce and fish at the market stands, and we got to taste Arancine, which are rounded balls of cooked rice with meat and/or cheese fillings that are coated with bread crumbs and deep-fried, and Sicilian chickpea fritters called Panelle. We later had a cooking lesson and learned to make these tasty treats.

Another cooking lesson took place in the country, which reminded me of Arizona because of the hills and the prickly pear cactus growing there. The chef, who spoke Sicilian dialect, taught us to make Busiate (pasta) al pesto Trapanese. The pesto is made with fresh tomatoes, basil, garlic, pinoli and extra-virgin olive oil. Our group of twelve “cooks” got to work the pasta dough into the corkscrew shape, and using a mortar and pestle made the pesto. Of course we got to mangia bene after everything was cooked.

We fell in love with Sicily, its delicious food and its friendly people. *Come no?*

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Rudy, enjoying a cannolo grande in Castellammare del Golfo in Trapani. →



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www.lancaster-italian-cultural-society.org

Want to become a member because you like what we're about? Do you share the same interests and want to help? Then please download and complete the membership form. We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to our organization as soon as possible!

<https://www.lancaster-italian-cultural-society.org/app/download/7125322425/LICS+New+Member+Application+09-2020.pdf>

The benefits of being a member in this organization are many, and a few are listed below.

Meeting with friends new and old, in an Italian-oriented setting. General Meetings are held approximately every other month, typically on a Sunday afternoon. A cultural presentation, followed by light fare and refreshments, frequently will be offered.

Receipt of the quarterly newsletter, L'Osservatore Lancastriano and Il Bollettino (our digital bulletin) containing the upcoming schedule of events, articles which focus on the significant contributions made by our Italian ancestry, past and present, recipes and so much more.

Trips and outings for members. Local events include a summer picnic; a free winter picnic for members. A Spaghetti Dinner fund raiser in October where we can enjoy Italian dishes and raise funds for our education initiative; and the annual Christmas Party.