

## Election Meeting - March 3, 2024 BUON ANNO!

LICS Bollettino Periodico

# L'Osservatore Lancastriano

*The Digital Periodical of the  
Lancaster Italian Cultural Society  
Volume 5 ✨ Issue 1 - Feb. 2024*



LANCASTER  
ITALIAN  
CULTURAL  
SOCIETY



January, 2024

Buon Anno!

Gentili amici.

Well, we got the much-expected snow. As I sit on my sofa, watching some old western movie, I cannot help but thank God for having a warm place to live and the calm, serene feeling that fills my heart.



There is so much sad news reading the newspaper that I feel blessed in the safety that we can experience in this wonderful USA, my home, our land.

I wish you all a happy and healthy new year.

On March 3, 2024, my term as LICS president will end. The last two years have been so very busy as we were coming out of COVID, that it felt like a short flight of a bird. Two fast years of catching up. I must thank all of you for being supportive and generous with your time and enthusiasm to rekindle our friendships at all the events provided. God bless you! I and all the board members could not have done a good job without you.

Please, keep sharing your talents, your time, and your Italian spirit in all that we do. "L'unione fa la forza". "Unity makes the strength", says an old Italian proverb.

We have had many new members joining LICS, so please, at all the events, and anywhere else you meet them, say Hello! or Ciao! Make our new members feel at home with the friendliness that Italians are famous for; invite them for coffee and biscotti, for lunch, or just a walk. My mother used to say, "veniamo dalla stessa pasta" (we come from the same dough), this is another old Italian saying.

On March 3rd, a new board will be formed. Support and welcome all the members, they will be here to continue and uphold our organization. Come forward and stand out, be proud to be part of our now, 25-year-old, LANCASTER ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY.

Thank you, you are my very dear family.

Sincerely,

Nella

### PEPERONI ROSSI (red peppers recipe)

**Ingredients:** 6 bell peppers, sliced; 1 cup virgin olive oil; ¼ cup balsamic vinegar; ½ cup bread crumbs, unflavored

**Preparation:** Clean peppers. Slice peppers in half. Remove stem and seeds. Cut each half into four sections then cut each slice into three sections. Sauté using medium heat in olive oil until tender. Avoid the pepper skin getting too dark. Turn off the heat, add the vinegar, stir to coat. Add the bread crumbs and mix well until all the bread crumbs are coated. Cover pan and let rest for 5 minutes. The flavor gets more enhanced. Place on any sandwich as a filler. This pepper combination can be refrigerated and used for the next few days.

### A 2024 Cooking Delight from our LICS Italian Cookbook! by Helen Ebersole

As we are settled into the New Year, I flashback to memories of cooking favorite family dishes at home.

I can still smell the Italian aromas from my mother's basement as she fried her dried peppers in never-to-be duplicated olive oil! My sister and I used to help our mother in the preparation and many times "test tasted" her Italian dish to "make sure it was OK!"

Flash forward to September, 2023 at The Keystone Project's second annual Lititz based L'Italia Festival.

I was asked to participate in the fest's cooking demonstration series.

It made total sense that I would choose a side dish that fosters many happy family memories.

With the assistance of friend and board member, Fiorella Spidaliere, the cooking demonstration (with tasty samples for our viewers!) was educational and so much fun!

Thank you to Susan Mauriello for submitting the above LICS cookbook recipe which I, as a LICS member, so enjoyed preparing and sharing samples with visitors at our Keystone Project September, 2023 L'Italia Festival.

Save the Dates!

Elections of Officers and Italian-American Service Award Luncheon

Members Only

Sunday, March 3, 2024

Time: 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Place: Knights of Columbus, 1575 New Danville Pike, Lancaster PA 17603
Lunch provided
RSVP: Dee Viscardi 717-951-7112 by February 23, 2024



LANCASTER ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY



LICS Launches Sales of Vintage Cookbooks

Sales Continue into our New Year

The Lancaster Italian Cultural Society is offering our vintage LICS cookbooks for purchase!

Culinary enthusiasts can purchase our cookbooks for friends and family at our various events.

The cookbook has delicious Italian delights submitted by our members, ranging from appetizers to desserts and everything in between!

Sample recipes include, Biscotti, Mama Carmela's Chicken and Baked Italian Omelet! These recipes will revive your creative culinary skills!

It will be fun to get back to your cucina and to cook with your family!

If you are interested in purchasing a book (\$18.00 or \$22.00 with shipping and handling) or have any questions, please contact Helen Ebersole at Helenno5@aol.com.

Cookbooks will also be for sale at our SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024. Membership Meeting/Elections at the Knight of Columbus.

VILLA ROMA RESORT

Third Annual Villa Roma Resort Trip

October 29 – November 1, 2024

Traveling by Elite Coach to Roma Resort located in the Catskill Mountains (Callicoon, N.Y.)

Depart Time: 9:00 AM October 29, 2024, from Lancaster Shopping Center, Lititz Pike.

Approximate Return Time: 4:00 PM, Nov. 1, 2024

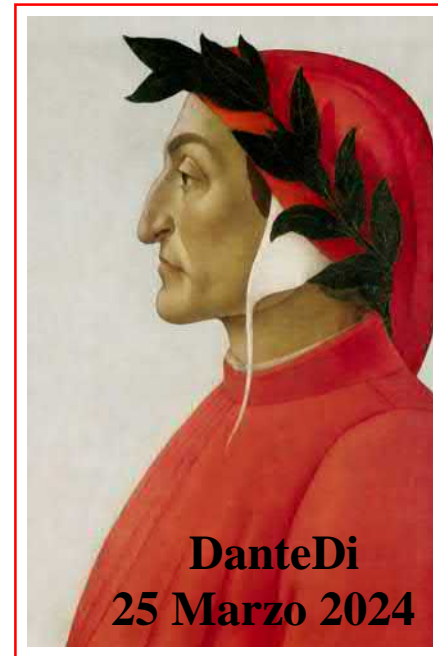
Reservations/Payment due by April 30, 2024

Please see attached flyer for details.

Please welcome our new bollettino/newsletter writer/committee member, Angella Lonzettta. For this issue, Angela has contributed two articles - Dante Day (page 3), and a review of "The Mother-In-Law Cure", a novel by Katherine Wilson (page 4). Grazie mille Angela, and we look forward to reading your upcoming articles.



**Helen Ebersole and Fiorella Spidaliere from LICS, guest cooks, along with Chef Nino and Gloria, at L'Italia Festa. Tutto Italiano, venite a mangiare. A tavola!**



### **Dante Day by Angela Lonzetta**

Dante Day (DanteDi) is observed annually on March 25th. It commemorates what many scholars believe is the day Dante Alighieri embarked on his fictional journey to the afterlife in the Divine Comedy. Italian Cultural Minister Dario Franceschini proposed the inaugural Dante Day, which occurred on March 25, 2020. The day is dedicated to honoring the life, legacy, and accomplishments of Dante Alighieri, and across Italy, Dante-themed events, readings, conferences, documentary screenings, and theatrical performances take place.

Born in the San Martino quarter of Florence, Italy, in 1265, Dante's early life is relatively obscure, with the details known primarily through his writings. Among his many poetic achievements, "The Divine Comedy" was his most renowned work. This narrative poem recounts Dante's journey through Hell (Inferno), Purgatory (Purgatorio), and Paradise (Paradiso), delving into themes of theology, morality, and the afterlife. Translated into over 50 languages, the poem not only holds literary significance but has also played a pivotal role in shaping the Italian language. Dante wrote it in the Tuscan dialect as opposed to traditional Latin, which was primarily used for educated readers. This decision contributed to the Tuscan Dialect becoming the foundation of modern Italian, and resulted in Dante being hailed as the "father of the Italian language."

Composed during Dante's exile in the early 14th century, "The Divine Comedy" is considered one of the greatest works of world and Italian literature. It explores redemption, justice, and the intricacies of the human soul. Dante's physical and spiritual journey through Inferno (Hell), Purgatorio (Purgatory), and Paradiso (Paradise) serves as a profound reflection on the human condition, morality, and the relationship between humanity and the divine. The poem addresses themes of justice, sin's consequences, the importance of free will, and the potential for redemption, leaving an enduring impact on literature, theology, and art across the ages.

In addition to his literary achievements, Dante engaged in politics in Florence, holding various offices; however, he fell out of favor, leading to his exile during a tumultuous political period in 1302. Accused of financial misconduct and corruption, Dante was banished and spent the remainder of his life in various cities, including Verona, Lucca, and Ravenna. Dante passed away in Ravenna in 1321, never returning to his beloved Florence. Despite political adversity, Dante's literary legacy endured. In 2008, nearly seven centuries after his banishment, Florence officially revoked his exile and acknowledged the injustice done to him.

To discover more about Dante Alighieri, including his personal life, literary achievements, and participation in politics, read:

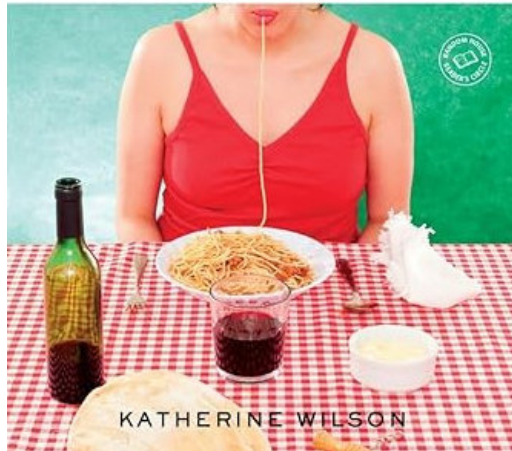
- Why Dante Matters: An Intelligent Person's Guide by John Took
- Dante by John Took
- Dante: A Life by Alessandro Barbero

"A glorious memoir celebrating the holy trinity of Italian life: love, food, and family." —ADRIANA TRIGIANI

Originally published as ONLY IN NAPLES

## the MOTHER-IN-LAW CURE

Learning to Live and Eat in an Italian Family



**“The Mother-in-Law Cure: Learning to Live and Eat in an Italian Family”** by Katherine Wilson, originally published as “Only in Naples,” is a delightful memoir that takes readers on a humorous and spirited journey through the author's life-changing experience with an Italian family in Naples beginning in the late 1990s.

Katherine Wilson, an American-born girl finds herself in Naples interning at the US Consulate. Her life takes an unexpected turn when she encounters Salvatore Avallone and his vibrant family, especially Salvatore's mother, Raffaella. What ensues is a heartwarming tale that seamlessly weaves together love, food, and family dynamics, offering readers a captivating glimpse into the richness of Italian culture.

One of the book's strengths lies in its ability to capture the nuances of the Neapolitan way of life. Katherine skillfully explores the cultural differences between Italians and Americans, and the amusing perception that Italians have of Americans, akin to characters from soap operas like “Young and the Restless.” This sets the stage for a series of comical and eye-opening moments as Katherine learns to navigate the intricacies of Neapolitan life.

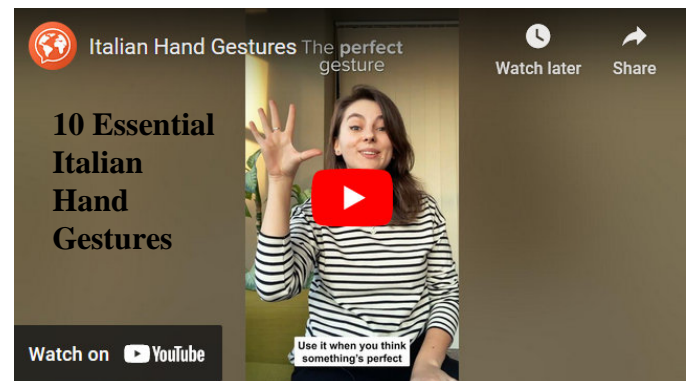
Katherine learns the significance of hand gestures in Neapolitan culture, providing readers with a humorous insight into the subtleties of communication in Italy. The book also sheds light on the Neapolitan

perspective on American eating habits, emphasizing the stark contrast in coffee consumption – Americans sipping their coffee like an IV drip compared to Italians quickly drinking espresso like a shot straight to the veins.

The author's journey with the Avallones uncovers various cultural quirks, such as the insistence that the crust should always be eaten last on pizza, the Italian aversion to planning, and the distinction between an apartment being merely “mother-in-law clean” (superficially clean for show) versus the higher standard of “Italian clean.”

As an additional touch to the memoir, Katherine shares some of Raffaella's cherished recipes, allowing readers to not only visualize the vibrant Italian meals but also try their hand at recreating the flavors of Naples. From Ragu to Parmigiana di Melanzane and Sartù di Riso, these recipes serve as a culinary bridge that connects the reader more intimately with the essence of the story.

In summary, “The Mother-in-Law Cure” is a captivating memoir that blends humor, cultural insights, and delectable recipes. Katherine Wilson's narrative style invites readers into the heart of Naples, leaving them with a profound appreciation for the warmth of Italian family life and the unforgettable flavors that define it. Whether you are a fan of memoirs, food, or cultural exploration, this book is a feast for the senses. *(Reviewed by Angela Lonzetta)*



<https://youtu.be/9GaSWb0PrAk>

<https://www.mondly.com/blog/italian-hand-gestures/>

Some say you don't really speak Italian if you don't use your hands too. That's why anyone who wishes to speak Italian like un italiano vero (a true Italian) needs to go beyond the famous ‘finger purse’ sign. Italians and gestures go together like mozzarella and pizza and you should too. Click on the links above to learn more and have some fun practicing Italian talking with your hands.



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**Election of LICS Officers and Board of Directors for 2024**

The following individuals are nominated to serve on the 2024 board of directors:

Tony Boffa and Valerie Boffa, Judy Krenzel, Angela Lonzetta (secretary), and Lyza Valenzo.

The following are those directors who will be remaining on the board for 2024:

Livia Riley (vice-president), J.D. Roda (treasurer) Dee Viscardi, Tony and Kathy Fisichella, Fiorella Spidaliere, and Nella Seward (past president).

We sincerely thank the departing directors for all of their time and help serving to make the Lancaster Italian Cultural Society even better:

Deb Saporetti (secretary), Peter Mastropietro, John Day, Helen Ebersole, and Pattie Meyer.

We hope to see all of our members at the March 3<sup>rd</sup> Election Meeting and Italian-American Service Award Luncheon, to meet and greet our new board. Viva Italia!

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**Third Annual Villa Roma Resorts  
October 29 – November 1, 2024  
Itinerary and Reservation**



Traveling with Elite Coach, Ephrata PA.

Destination: Villa Roma Resort located in the Catskill Mountains (Callicoon, N.Y.)

Depart Time: 9:00 AM October 29, 2024, from Lancaster Shopping Center, Lititz Pike.

Parking next to former A.C. Moore (Oregon Pike side).

Approximate Return Time: 4:00 PM, November 1, 2024

You may bring one carry on and one luggage (luggage tags will be sent to you).

Enjoy the fun, food and relaxation Villa Roma Resort has to offer. Bingo! Horse Racing, Bocce, Shuffleboard Tournaments, Dance Lessons, Karaoke, Talent Show, Game Night, Italian Cooking Class and much more.

Room keys will be given upon arrival, along with a schedule of activities for your stay.

Suggested Items to bring with you would be, evening attire for Thursday Nights Gala “Caesar’s Dinner Extravaganza “, bathing suit for indoor pool, cash on hand and your I.D.

Casual attire throughout the day and don’t forget any medications you may be taking.

Masks are not required.

**Surround yourself with all things Italian!**

\*Delicious Meals Starting with dinner on arrival through Breakfast on departure

\*Ceasar’s Luncheon Extravaganza – Tribute to Italian Singers

\*San Gennaro Feast Buffet Lunch on Wednesday

\*Caesar’s Night Extravaganza Thursday

\*Exciting Italian American Shows & Italian Themed Activities

Planning on going to Resorts Catskills Casino on Wednesday only, the cost for Shuttle round trip is \$20. The casino will give you \$20 in free play if you show your I. D. Leaving Casino 1 PM and returning to Resort 5 PM. It’s a 35-minute ride.

Half down payment per person is required when sending in your reservations (non-refundable).

Full amount must be in before April 30, 2024. Questions call 717-951-7112.

.....  
Fill out the form below, make check to LICS. Send to Dee Viscardi 6486 Lincoln Ct East Petersburg, PA 17520

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Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ How Many \_\_\_\_\_ Please Check Room: Double \$765. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Quad \$696. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Special Needs Request:**

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**NOTE: Any Birthdays or Anniversaries Please inform me. Thank You.**

