

25th Anniversary of 'Tradizioni'



tradizioni

NEWSLETTER OF THE ITALIAN FOLK ART FEDERATION OF AMERICA

Editor: Jackie Capurro

IFafa Website: www.italian-american.com/ifafa/

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NO. 1

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

This is the 25th Anniversary issue of *Tradizioni*! I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to *Tradizioni* since 1980. A special thank you is due Jackie Capurro, the current editor, for the amazing job she does with each issue.

I would like to thank everyone for helping to make the 2004 IFafa Conference in Philadelphia such a wonderful experience. It was a true team effort with IFafa members from across the country volunteering their expertise and time. One of the most pleasant surprises of the conference was the number of young adults in attendance. Their energy was contagious! They are the future IFafa leaders and we need to keep them involved. Photos and conference DVDs will be mailed out in early April.

The 2005 dues notices have been mailed out. Your dues help subsidize the newsletter and the annual IFafa Conferences and thus keep the conferences affordable. Think about it. Where else can you get workshops, lunch, dinner, and dancing to a band for less than \$100? If you are a performing group, please send in a current list of your group members with your payment so that we can update the IFafa data base. Include current addresses, e-mails and phone numbers. If you failed to pay your 2004 dues, a "catch up" payment is expected.

I am looking forward to the 2005 IFafa Conference in Des Moines, Iowa. Get involved! Ask yourself: "How can I help out?"

Paul Torna

Philadelphia Hosts Great 2004 Conference!

If you did not attend the 2004 IFafa Conference in Philadelphia, November 4-6, you were among the minority of the IFafa members who didn't! A wonderful turnout of over 130 participants, representing groups from Massachusetts to California, Wisconsin to Colorado, flowed into Philadelphia for a weekend of learning, sharing, singing, dancing, eating and laughing.

Several people arrived early and didn't let the rain keep them from taking advantage of the time to do some sight-seeing in historic Philadelphia and in the surrounding area. Luckily by Friday morning the rain had let up and members of Philadelphia's *Vivaci* folk dance troupe accompanied participants to the Italian market neighborhood to shop and to breathe in the atmosphere, and then on to the University of Pennsylvania Archaeology Museum to see the current exhibit on art and artifacts of the Greek, Etruscan and Roman Worlds.

Friday evening, the conference opened with a meeting of the general membership, presided over by Paul Torna, in the dual role of *Vivaci* director and IFafa President. The evening's reception included social dancing, singing, and a marvelous buffet of savory and sweet treats. Several "Sharing Tables"

overflowed with pages of information which participants had brought. Other tables displayed informative and imaginative displays on various aspects of Italian folklore and traditions, created by younger IFafa members (under age 18) for a contest to be judged for awards which were presented at the *Festa*.

Saturday's dance sessions gave participants instruction in *la Tarantella Carmellina* (taught by Barbara Grieco, Montclair, NJ), *Pizzica* dances of Salento (taught by Natalie Marrone, Ohio), and *Il Valtzer Siciliano* (taught by Jackie Capurro, San Jose, CA). Those who took a break from dancing attended sessions about Regional Folk Music (led by Meri DeLorenzo Howard, Los Angeles, CA) or Italian Costumes (led by MaryLou Romano, Newark, NJ), or learned to create decorative breads, make *Limoncello* liqueur, can tomatoes, or play Italian card games. A great variety of activities, many led by members of the *Vivaci* host group, kept young and old(er) occupied!

The Saturday evening *Festa Folcloristica* was memorable. The host group, *Vivaci*, first presented Honored Guest plaques to Dr. Edmund J. Forte, Mrs. Anna L. Forte, and Mr. Crisante

(continued on page 2)

Plan NOW for 2005 Conference in Des Moines

Information and a registration form for the 2005 IFafa Conference in Des Moines, Iowa, can be found on page 3 of this issue of *Tradizioni*. Sign up now!

Philadelphia Hosts Great 2004 Conference!

(continued from page 1) ... Ianni for their involvement with the Italian-American community in Philadelphia.

Awards were given to eight young people who had submitted folkloric displays which were exhibited during the entire weekend. The awards were from \$50 to \$150, aimed at encouraging the participation of younger members. Award winners were: Chiara Maggiore (CT), Darcy Haddox (Canton, OH), Emily DeMeo (Canton, OH), Antoinette Wharton (Denver, CO), Christina Tecce (Philadelphia, PA), Joseph Maggiore (CT), Miranda Romeo (Des Moines, IA), and Stella Lucia Romano (Newark, NJ).

Following the awards, performances were offered by the folk dance groups from Philadelphia, PA; Waltham, MA; Des Moines, IA; Pittsburgh, PA; Reading, PA; and Milwaukee, WI. Natalie Marrone also got people up who had attended her *Pizzica* workshops and they all danced to some lively music. The band was great, a nice variety of music, in Italian and English. Participants danced until the hotel closed us down!

Sunday morning was a time for fond farewells, looking forward to the 2005 conference in Des Moines, Iowa.

Here is an Easter greeting to share with friends and loved ones.

Buona Pasqua!

Aprite le vostre porte:
veniamo per augurare
a chi crede nel Signore
una Pasqua di gioia.

Aprite le vostre orecchie:
veniamo per annunciare
a chi crede nella pace
una Pasqua di gioia.

Aprite i vostri cuori:
veniamo per rinnovare
a chi crede nell'amore
una Pasqua di gioia.

Happy Easter!

Open your doors:
we come to wish
those who believe in the Lord
an Easter of joy.

Open your ears:
we come to announce
to those who believe in peace
an Easter of joy.

Open your hearts:
we come to renew
for those who believe in love
an Easter of joy.

Ellis Island Immigrant Database

Since its launch, the Ellis Island Foundation's award-winning website has received more than six billion hits.

The Foundation has recently announced a re-vamp of the website that allows families to search an extensive database for information on their immigrant past.

The database allows visitors to search for a plethora of passenger information included on a ship's original manifest, including hometown, marital status, age at the time of immigration, and name of the passenger ship. The website also includes helpful hints for planning your own trip to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty.

In addition, the site features a history of Ellis Island, many historical photos, and a "Famous Arrivals" page which links the user to the information available on the passenger manifests of famous personalities who arrived in the Port of New York. Visit the site at «www.ellisland.org».

—National Italian American Foundation

Folk Music and Dance Tour of Northern Italy

The folk music and dance tour that Meri DeLorenzo Howard announced at the IFAFA Conference in Philadelphia for next summer is ready for registration. Participants will be learning dances from the area; meeting musicians, singers, and ethnomusicologists to learn more about the folk music traditions of Piemonte, Lombardia and Liguria; and attending traditional music concerts.

To find out details of the tour and to see the other tours that are planned for the summer of 2005, visit the website at «www.tournorthernitaly.com».

If you have questions, please contact Meri at «tours@3hglobal.com». Space on the tour is limited, so make your enquiries soon.

IFAF Member Nick Maiolo Creates Presentations

On February 1, 2003, the Italian American Cultural Society of Virginia asked Nick Maiolo (an IFAFA Member) to write, direct, produce and organize a fund raiser for an Italian American scholarship fund. The result was a two-hour audio-visual live performance on-stage that raised approximately \$4,000.00 in one night.

In June of 2005, the Giuseppe Verdi Lodge, the Richmond, VA, chapter of OSIA (Order Sons Of Italy In America) will be hosting nine state-wide chapters for the State Convention, celebrating the 100th anniversary of OSIA. Nick, also a member of OSIA, has been asked to write, direct, produce and organize a special AV presentation for the event.

The web page for the Giuseppe Verdi Lodge is «<http://hometown.aol.com/eagleindus/myhomepage/business.html>» and the web page for Italia AV, headed by Nick Maiolo, is «<http://members.aol.com/eagleindus>».

Summer Workshop in Italy:

Early Dance and Music

For the fourth year, the Association *Il Teatro della Memoria* will offer "*L'Humor Bizarro. Intarsi di musica e danza antica*," eight days of courses, concerts and workshops in early music and dance, with specific reference to the Renaissance and Baroque periods. The workshop takes place in Bagnacavallo (Ravenna), Emilia-Romagna, Italy, July 28th to August 4th, 2005. The Association *Il Teatro della Memoria* is directed by Claudia Celi and Andrea Toschi.

The courses will be presented by Ninad Massimo Carrano (Percussion - Rhythmic Sensibilization), Bruna Gondoni (Renaissance Dancing), Cecilia Grácio Moura (Baroque Dancing), Bettina Hoffmann (Viola da Gamba), Gian Luca Lastraioli (Lute - Continuo), Martino Noferi (Recorder and Baroque Oboe), Alberto Rossi (Cornett - Recorder), and Santina Tomasello (Renaissance and Baroque Singing). Ensemble workshops in music and dance will prepare the students to perform a final concert where dance will be accompanied by live music.

Special rates are available at hotels, restaurants and at the Youth Hostel. Information in English on fees and booking can be found at «http://www.teatrodellamemoria.org/corsihumor_eng.htm». The full program in Italian is available at «<http://www.teatrodellamemoria.org/corsihumor.htm>».

For enquiries in English, contact:

Andrea Toschi

P.O. BOX 17100 - I 00189 Roma Grottarossa (Italy)

tel. & fax (+39) 0633267447

e-mail: «info@teatrodellamemoria.org»

website: «<http://www.teatrodellamemoria.org>»

IFAFA CONFERENCE -- OCTOBER 28, 29, 30, 2005

Embassy Suites on the River
101 East Locust Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Information:

Reservations: 1-515-244-1700 or 1-800-EMBASSY (ask for Folk Art Federation of America rate)
website: www.embassysuites.com/en/es/hotels/index.jhtml?ctyhocn=DSMDNES

HOTEL / ROOM INFO

The 2005 IFAFA Conference will take place at the Embassy Suites on the River in downtown Des Moines. Hotel reservations should be made before October 5, 2005. Please contact the hotel directly for your room reservation(s). **ASK FOR THE "FOLKART FEDERATION OF AMERICA" RATE WHEN YOU RESERVE YOUR ROOM. FOR THESE RATES, YOU MUST MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS BEFORE OCTOBER 5!** A group block rate, from Wednesday, October 26 until Monday, October 31st, will be held until Monday, October 5, 2005. After that date the rate will increase to the next best available rate. If there are any complications experienced while making your reservations, please call the hotel directly and ask for reservations manager.

The rate of \$96.00 per suite includes:

- A spacious two-room suite which features a living area with sofa sleeper, two telephones, high-speed internet capability, and two color TVs with cable and pay-per-view movies
- Complimentary full cooked-to-order breakfast
- Complimentary alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages served from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM.

TENTATIVE WORKSHOPS AND ACTIVITIES (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Registration will be on Friday from 5 - 7 PM. A tour of the Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa and St. Anthony's church will be offered to those who arrive on Thursday or before noon on Friday. Additional information will be forthcoming. Following the 7:00 PM Friday business meeting, we will be celebrating "Christmas in Italy!"

Dance instructions will be offered in the morning and repeated in the afternoon. Other seminars will include: "And the Lost May Be Found," offered by the Genealogy group of the Center; "Bella Italia" children's Italian Day Camp; in-depth study of the art of making "Vesteede," the decorative breads for the St. Joseph Altar; a hands on "Guanti" cookie-making class; "Everything In Its Place!" scrap booking session; Italian Celebrations; the Italian chorus; and an "Over and Under" palm weaving class.

A group picture will be taken prior to the banquet on Saturday evening and a video and/or DVD will be available to purchase. Music and instructions for each session will be in the attendees' packets.

For any additional information, contact Conference Coordinator Patricia Civitate by phone at 1-515-244-4672 or by email at «civitate9@msn.com».



Please cut your registration form here (or photocopy it), and mail it to:

Patricia Civitate, 2200 S Union, Des Moines, IA 50315
Phone: 1-515-244-4672 Email: «civitate9@msn.com»

Include your check (made out to IFAFA).

List one participant per form, or attach a list of attendees (with address, phone number, and email address).

Name _____ Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address: _____

Group Name (if applicable) _____

The deadline for early conference reservations is October 5, 2005. Please indicate the number of tickets needed in each category, and carry out the dollar amount:

Entire Conference:

IFAFA Member (adults)	\$90	X	_____	=	\$ _____
IFAFA Member (students through high school age)	\$70	X	_____	=	\$ _____
Non-Member	\$105	X	_____	=	\$ _____
Late Registration (after October 5, 2005)	\$125	X	_____	=	\$ _____
Saturday Festa Folcloristica Only (for guests of IFAFA members)	\$40	X	_____	=	\$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

UNCLE NINO

Gli Alpini: Unrecognized Heroes

by Eric V. Youngquist

A beautiful movie that speaks of traditional Italian values has been produced by Chicago-native David James and written and directed by Bob Shallcross. *Uncle Nino* is the story of an elderly Italian peasant, Uncle Nino (Pierrino Mascarino) comes to America for the first time to spend some time with his nephew, Robert Micelli (Joe Mantegna), and his family. With his violin, a suitcase full of homemade wine, and a photo of his hero, Abraham Lincoln, in tow, Nino expects to be embraced by the country of his dreams. What he discovers instead is a place of take-out food, manicured lawns, teen smoking, processed vegetables, and a barely communicative family—each disconnected from the others, caught up in lives of multi-tasking.



While Robert works round-the-clock to ensure a much-deserved promotion, Marie (Anne Archer) fills her time working, organizing the household, and growing increasingly lonelier. Fourteen-year-old Bobby (Trevor Morgan) devotes more time to his garage band and petty acts of neighbourhood vandalism than his schoolwork, and twelve-year-old Gina (Gina Mantegna, making her film debut) spends most of her

time at her friend's house.

Though barely conversant in English, Uncle Nino slowly begins to connect with Gina through her love of dogs and Bobby through his passion for music. It isn't until Uncle Nino and the kids tear up the entire front yard and plant an elaborate garden, however, that Robert confronts the uncle he hasn't seen in thirty years. Finally learning the true reason for his uncle's visit, Robert reflects on his life and reconsiders the things that are truly important to him.

A work of deep sentiment that avoids sentimentality, *Uncle Nino* is a film about the lost art of living. A fable-like story grounded in realism, *Uncle Nino* is a feel-good, Capra-esque tale, whose magical lead character teaches others how to slow down and enjoy life's simple pleasures: good food and drink, music, and most important, La Famiglia!

Uncle Nino is the winner of the Crystal Heart Award at the Heartland Film Festival, an Audience Choice Award from the Marco Island Film Festival, and the recipient of the Dove Family-Approved Seal from The Dove Foundation, a non-profit organization that encourages and promoted the production and distribution of wholesome entertainment for all ages.

Please visit <http://www.uncleninothemovie.com/> to find the theatre nearest to you. Let's support films that show Italians in such a positive light!

Italian-Americans cringe at negative stereotypes of their people, and well they should. The snickering they hear about the Italian military must be particularly galling. I spoke to several groups of Italian-Americans recently and was surprised to learn how few of them had even heard of the *Alpini*. They are the best answer to snide comments about the Italian army. Talk about bravery, tenacity, downright guts and determination — the *Alpini* could hold their own, man to man, against anyone, and they did.

This imbalance in coverage may be corrected in part by a suspense novel *The Joint Venture* by Gilbert Visconti, released in May 2003. A reader can't miss the *Alpini*, because two of the main characters are *Alpini* veterans, and a key part of the plot involves the heroics of the *Alpini* Divisions on the Russian Front during the winter of 1942-1943.

The Italian Alpine Corps was formed officially on October 15, 1872, but the *Alpini* can trace their origin all the way back to the time of Augustus Caesar, who decided to establish an Alpine legion and name it *Julia*. Query whether Hannibal would ever have been able to cross the Alps if the *Alpini* had been there. They have a motto: *di qui non si passa*, which means that their mission is to make sure that no one, no matter who, gets through them.

To understand the *Alpini*, you have to understand the kind of people who come from the mountain areas. Life there is harsh and it is the tough who manage to survive. Even in the face of exhaustion, difficult tasks, adversity and bad weather, these mountain people put their heads down and go forward. They are attached to their mountains and valleys which they learn to know and love from their earliest childhood. The *Alpini* are without fear or concern for their own welfare when it comes to doing what has to be done, and they have given a great account of themselves in the African desert as well as the frozen steppes of Russia. They are expert skiers and marksmen — one tough breed.

According to the official history of the Alpine Corps, the *Alpini* were the brainchild of a young captain, Giuseppe Perrucchetti, who was teaching in a military school in Torino. He proposed recruiting young men from the Alpine villages to serve as a first line of defense for the nearby Alpine passes. He suggested dividing the entire Alpine zone into a series of different sections, each of which should comprise one or two valleys. Troops recruited locally would provide the defensive unit for their own sector or district. The commander of these troops would be in charge of the district as well as local defense. His proposal took hold quickly, and it was he who christened them *Alpini*, because he thought the name had a certain cachet.

Editor's Note: Many songs have been written about the *Alpini*. One example is found on page 5.

CHIESETTA ALPINA *

Parole di ARRIGO

Musica di R. DE MARTINO

Lento Canto

C'è u-na
 chie-sa al-pi-na do-ve già rin-toc-ca u-na cam-pa-na, nel ve-
 der-la co-sì in al-to pa-re in cie-lo, e più lon-ta-na ... Col
 suo-no par che di-ca a un cuor, nel dol-ce ve-spro mat-tu-tin, al-
 la chie-set-ta tut-ta in fior, ri-tor-ne rai mio bel-'al-pin ...
 -rà ...

I
 C'è una chiesa alpina dove già rintocca una campana,
 nel vederla così in alto pare in cielo, e più lontana ...
 Col suono par che dica a un cuor,
 nel dolce vespro mattutin,
 alla chiesetta tutta in fior,
 ritornerai mio bell'alpin ...

II
 S'ode un suono ma non è più la campana della chiesetta
 è il silenzio della sera che pian pian suona la trombetta ...
 Più piano come in un sospir,
 fra breve non si sente più,
 ma al bruno alpin par d'udir,
 la campanella sua di laggiù ...

III
 Roselina che col gregge vai sui monti di buon mattino,
 e con ansia e fede aspetti che ritorni il tuo bell'alpin ...
 Se pur lontano il bruno alpin,
 a te soltanto penserà
 e un dì vedrai che a te vicin,
 felice ancor ritornerà ...

IV
 Ed un giorno assai più forte suona a festa la campanella,
 è ritornato il bruno alpino e Rosellina si fa più bella.
 È bianca e pura come un fior,
 che il sol di maggio sboccherà,
 e la campana con amor,
 per quelle nozze suonerà ...

* This song was taught at the 1997 IFAFA Conference in Buffalo, NY.

Regional Italian Folk Costumes

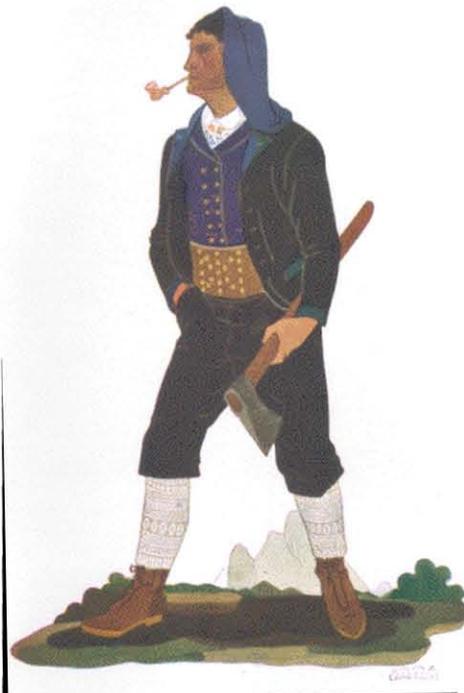
We continue the series of descriptions of folk costumes taken from the book, now out of print, Il Costume popolare in Italia, by Emma Calderini, published by Sperling & Kupfer, Milano. In this issue, we highlight two costumes from the region of Calabria.

Woman of Bova
in Winter
Clothing



Blouse of homespun cloth, with a squared-off neckline trimmed with crocheted lace. Skirt of heavy blue wool, gathered at the waist. The vest, laced in the front with red ribbons, is of crushed velvet. The black silk apron is gathered at the waist and has a border of multi-colored lines. The long-sleeved jacket, open in front, comes a little below the waist, and is of black wool. Blue knit stockings. Low-heeled shoes of black leather. On the head, a "tovaglia" of pleated fabric, embroidered with various ornamental motifs on the bottom edge. The hair, parted at the forehead, is gathered in a braid at the back of the neck. Gold necklace with pendant.

Man of
Simbario



Shirt of heavy homespun embroidered cloth, with soft collar turned back over the double-breasted waistcoat, lapels garnished with metallic buttons. Common jacket of heavy black wool with lapels and pockets of blue fabric. The pants are short, open on the side, decorated with buttons also at the opening by the knee. Wide leather belt, adorned with metal studs placed in a decorative design. White knit stockings, with intricate designs. Heavy leather shoes laced in front, with a leather tongue which folds down to cover the lacing. On the head, a stocking cap of blue fabric which falls down the back.

Ethnographic Museums in Italy

Continuing our listing of Italy's "ethnographic" museums which may contain folk materials for research purposes, we'll list of places of interest in the remaining provinces in the region of Toscana. Please feel free to send in any additions or corrections that you discover in your travels.

Massa Carrara

Museo Etnografico della Lunigiana via Mulini, 70 54028 VILLAFRANCA LUNIGIANA (MS)
Museo etnologico delle Apuane via Uliveti, 85 54100 MASSA (MS) 0585 - 231330

Pistoia

Ecomuseo della Montagna Pistoiese c/o Assessorato alla Cultura - Provincia di Pistoia 51100 PISTOIA (PT) 0573 - 374247/374294
Museo etnologico della montagna Fraz. Rivoreta 51024 CUSTIGLIANO (PT) 0573 - 68029

Siena

Centro per la Documentazione del Lavoro Contadino - Ce. D. La. C. 53100 SIENA (SI) 0577 - 220356
Museo del Bosco 53018 ORGIA - SOVICILLE (SI)

Grosseto

Museo delle tradizioni popolari ex frantoio ALBERESE (GR)

Livorno

Museo della Vita e del Lavoro della Maremma Settentrionale Loc. S. Pietro in Palazzi - Via Guerrazzi 57023 CECINA

“Iugale”

A Folk Tale Told to IFAPA Member Dr. Anthony Le Pera by his Parents

A local farmer on his way to work noticed that Iugale was sawing a large branch of a tree while standing on the outer section of the branch. The good farmer suggested to Iugale that he stand on the inner section of the branch; otherwise he would surely fall, together with the branch.

Ignoring the friendly advice, Iugale kept merrily sawing along, when suddenly the branch gave way and both came crashing to the ground. Having regained his bearings, Iugale dusted his trousers and reasoned that the farmer was surely a fortune teller. “After all, didn’t the farmer see the future in predicting my fall?” Whereupon Iugale loaded his donkey and set out to find the wise farmer to ask him more information about his future.

Hurrying up the hill, Iugale and his laboring donkey came upon the farmer. “Oh, wise man,” said Iugale, “you who see into the future, tell me, when am I going to die?”

The farmer, noticing the poor beast huffing and puffing under the heavy load and humoring Iugale, responded, “Your time will come when your donkey expels air for the third time.”

Iugale thanked the kind farmer and continued up the hill with his donkey who was finding it more and more difficult to continue under the heavy load. Halfway up the hill, the donkey expelled air. Iugale, somewhat apprehensive, made a mental note. Further up the hill, the donkey expelled air for a second time. This greatly disturbed Iugale. He located a cork and, raising the donkey’s tail, quickly proceeded to close the opening to prevent further escape of air; otherwise his death was near.

The poor beast, feeling so stuffed up, let out a blast of air, propelling the cork and hitting Iugale in the forehead. “This must be it!! This must be the end of me!! Good-bye, my faithful friend,” he said to the donkey and, with that, Iugale dropped to the ground — arms and legs outstretched, remaining motionless for hours.

That evening, country folks, returning from the day’s labor and seeing Iugale motionless, gently picked him up and carried him through town to his home.

The word spread fast. Iugale had died. The town was in mourning. Tears flowed copiously.

The following morning after the funeral, Iugale was placed in a makeshift wooden box, the box was closed, and the procession found its way to the cemetery on the outskirts of town. They came to a fork in the road and, not sure which way to go, the coachman of the horse-drawn hearse stopped to consult with others on the best way to proceed.

It was now midday. The sun was beating down on the wooden box. Very little air was reaching the inside. It was extremely hot. The discussion as to which way to proceed to the cemetery became a long and heated debate. Iugale, fully shrouded in black woolen clothes, was sweating heavily. He could no longer suffer idly while they debated.

From inside the wooden box came the voice of Iugale. “When I was alive, I took the road to the left. Now that I am dead, do as you wish, but hurry it up.”

The wooden box was quickly opened and Iugale was helped out. The outrageous laughter of the procession soon became a reverent prayer. A miracle had taken place. Iugale was risen from the dead.

That night, the town celebrated as it had not done for a long time.

Moral of the story: Do not live your life according to the advice of others.

“Iugale” originally appeared in *Tradizioni* in 1989, Vol.9-No.2

Book: Italian Traditions through Cooking

The book [I'm So Hungry, Even You're Startin' to Look Good](#), subtitled “An Italian Family’s Love Affair with Food,” is more than a cookbook. Author Marjorie Mauriello Baker penned this book to preserve her Italian family’s legacy. The title is a nod to one of her father’s playful remarks to her mother when dinner was a few minutes late.

Baker writes about southern Italian cooking and teaches in the Los Angeles area through her company, My Neapolitan Kitchen. Cooking at her parents’ side since the age of 10, Baker was taught to cook by instinct, usually without recipes, measuring ingredients in the palm of her hand, just as her parents had done.

Each recipe in the book is preceded by a page of anecdotes, describing a family event, pizza bake-offs, a trip to the market, or raiding the pantry for unexpected last-minute entertaining -- stories that will be familiar to most Italian-Americans.

The cost of the book is \$24.95 plus shipping and handling. It is available on Baker’s website ([«www.myneapolitankitchen.com»](#)) or contact her at 1-310-391-9827, or at 3325 Keeshen Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90066.



Story of the Gondolieri

Every year, millions visit the islands of Venice. For many, a ride on a gondola is obligatory, but how many people know the stories behind these boats and about the *gondolieri* who steer them up and down the canals? In her 235-page narrative, [Free Gondola Ride](#), Italian American author Kathleen Ann Gonzalez relates what she learned during a summer of immersing herself into the world of the gondolier. She tells the story behind the men in the striped shirts: their characters and families.



To purchase the book, visit [«www.freegondolaride.com»](#) or send an email to [«freegondolaride@yahoo.com»](#). The cost of the book is \$15.00, with a portion of every book sale donated to *Save Venice, Inc.*, an American organization committed to restoring Venice’s architecture.

Tradizioni's Past Editors

The editor would like to pay tribute to those who have served in the capacity of newsletter editor since 1980.

1980-1984	Dr. Anthony LePera, editor
1985	Dr. Joseph Bentivegna, editor
	Dr. Anthony LePera, assistant editor
1986-1987	Dr. Joseph Bentivegna, editor
1988	[no issues]
1989-1992	Dr. Anthony LePera, editor
1993	[no issues]
1994-1998	Dr. Maria Elisa Ciavarelli, editor
	Jackie Capurro, assistant editor
1998-present	Jackie Capurro, editor

This Issue's Contributors

The editor would like to thank the following people for contributing articles and/or information for this issue:

Marjorie Mauriello Baker	Victor Peck
Patricia Civitate	Paul Torna
Anna Marie Fiori	Rita Tonitto
Dr. Anthony LePera	Andrea Toschi
Nick Maiolo	Eric V. Youngquist

FOLK DANCES, COSTUMES AND CUSTOMS OF ITALY

by Elba Farabegoli Gurzau

Softcover book, 128 pages, which includes black-and-white and color illustrations, 17 dances with description and notated music, information about Italy, costumes, customs, etc. Comes with recorded music to accompany the dances, your choice of audiocassette or CD.

Price: \$25.00, plus \$3.95 for handling and postage. Be sure to specify CD or cassette.

Please make check or money order payable to IFafa and mail to:
IFafa Treasurer
P.O. Box 1192
Rockford, IL 61105

The purpose of the ITALIAN FOLK ART FEDERATION OF AMERICA (IFafa) is to preserve and foster interest in Italian folk art; to research Italian folklore, traditions, customs, costumes, dances, songs, instruments, etc.; to act as a center for gathering, storing, and disseminating the information; and to bring together Italian folk performing groups and other interested individuals.

IFafa is an outgrowth of the Italian Folk Art Project initiated at the Nationalities Service Center (NSC) of Philadelphia in 1977. With the assistance of NSC and the leadership and dedication of Cav. Elba Farabegoli Gurzau, IFafa was incorporated May 7, 1979, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a non-profit cultural and educational organization.

IFafa President: Paul Torna

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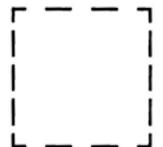
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