



# tradizioni

NEWSLETTER OF THE ITALIAN FOLK ART FEDERATION OF AMERICA

Editor: Jackie Capurro

IFAFA Website: [www.italian-american.com/itafa/](http://www.italian-american.com/itafa/)

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Someone recently asked me why I was so passionate about Italian folk arts. I quickly replied, "because I like everyone else who is passionate about things Italian." IFAFA brings us together because we are the same .... passionate about Italian dance, song, crafts, food, and so on. The conferences are our family reunion! If you have not been to a conference recently or if you have never attended one .... meet us in Milwaukee this October. If you are knowledgeable about a craft or tradition etc., let us know. We will let you share it with the rest of the family at a workshop.

A special thank you to Pat Civitate, *Il Trattenimento Italiano*, and the Italian Community of Des Moines, Iowa, for all of their hard work and genuine hospitality this past October! It was a wonderful experience.

### IFAFA Membership Dues for 2006 are due now:

Prior to the 2005 conference, several IFAFA members contacted me and suggested that IFAFA increase dues since they were at "1980 prices". A poll at the general meeting in Des Moines indicated that many IFAFA members believed that dues should be increased a little. After much discussion at the general membership meeting, it was decided that the Board would address the dues issue and make a decision.

The board has decided to keep the dues structure "as is" for now. The dues help pay for *Tradizioni* and help subsidize the cost of the conference. Please pay your dues in a timely manner. If you are the director of a performing group, please make sure that your group sends its current roster along with its check. Include the name, address and phone number for everyone in your group. *IFAFA's dues are less than the cost of a large pizza!*

Have a safe and relaxing summer, and I look forward to seeing everyone in Milwaukee in late October.

Paul Torna

## Plan NOW for 2006 Conference in Milwaukee

Save the dates of October 22 to 24, 2006, for this year's IFAFA conference to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Milwaukee's exuberant folk dance troupe, *Tradizione Vivente*, is planning a wide variety of activities to keep us busy!

The conference will take place at the Sheraton Hotel in Brookfield, with rooms priced at \$109.00 per night. A registration form in the next issue of *Tradizioni* will provide more information about making your reservations. If you have immediate questions, please email one of the DeSanctis family: Mark <paaisano311@aol.com>, Linda <lindadesanctis@northwesternmutual.com>, Susie <schristiansen@wldlaw.com>, or Lisa <lisa.desanctis@thermo.com>.

Friday's activities will begin with afternoon registration, followed by the annual IFAFA meeting. The theme of Friday evening's reception will be Italian Games, featuring a scavenger hunt, Italian card games, and a Bocce Tournament.

In addition to dance and song workshops which will be announced later, other Saturday workshop subjects will include a variety of topics designed to attract the interest of non-dancers and dancers alike.

In *Arte Italiana: The Renaissance*, you will visit and explore the exquisite works of art by Michelangelo, da Vinci, Raphael, etc. You will also delve into the beautiful architecture in and around Italy which was heavily influenced by the Renaissance.

A *Bomboniere* workshop will teach the tradition where Roman nobility gave small gifts to their guests as tokens of appreciation for their attendance at functions and to important dignitaries at political functions. Today, these small gifts are often given to guests at large parties, especially at weddings. Learn more about the history behind this tradition, learn what they do in Italy vs. what is common in America, and learn how to make your own beautiful *bomboniere*, which you can take with you.

An *Italian Language* class: Because the Italian language is such a magnificent language, it is so important that we continue to learn it. Members of the Milwaukee group will be offering an Italian language class ... with a twist. In an effort to help you learn and REMEMBER Italian words and phrases, they'll be teaching Italian through the playing of Charades - you will definitely have fun in this class ... while you learn.

(continued, page 2)

## Plan NOW for 2006 Conference in Milwaukee

(continued from page 1) *Italian Liquors and Infused*

*Olive Oils:* In this class, you will be taste-testing and learning how to make, on your own, fabulous Italian liquors such as Galliano, and how to infuse olive oil with such delectable things such as garlic, basil, parsley, rosemary, sweet red pepper, lemon, sun-dried tomatoes, pepperoncini, sun-dried tomatoes, etc.

In the *Scrapbooking* session, you'll learn how to get those priceless photographs into a scrapbook for your Italian cultural group or Italian dance group. Bring with you to Milwaukee: 10 to 12 photographs (photos that focus only on one or two events would be best) — you will leave with two spectacular pages that will inspire you to continue to protect your group's photos by organizing them into a scrapbook. (Please note: There will be an additional charge of \$4.00 to

attend this workshop, to pay for supplies.)

*Palm Weaving* — Gene Fedeli, from Rockford, IL, teaches this enjoyable class on shaping and braiding palms and creating beautiful pieces with them — this class is always full!

Saturday night will, of course, usher in the delightful *Festa Folcloristica*. For this evening, *Tradizione Vivente* is bringing back the wonderful band, *La Nuova Immagine*, who were so popular and well-received when they performed for the 1999 IFAFA Conference in Milwaukee.

For those who don't have early Sunday morning flights, Mass will be held in the hotel for all IFAFA Conference attendees.

The members of *Tradizione Vivente* look forward to hosting this year's conference, and they hope you'll start planning your travel arrangements now to join them in Milwaukee this October!

### Tutte le Fundanelle

This is a traditional song from the Abruzzese regional capital of L'Aquila. The *fontanelli* refer to the fountain spouts of the city's famous *Fontana delle 99 cannelle*, the Fountain of the 99 Spouts, along with whatever metaphorical meanings you'd like to equate to the lyrics!

#### TUTTE LE FUNDANELLE

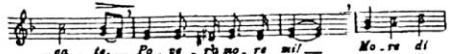
(Tutte le fontanelle)

(Ricordate da G. d'Annunzio)

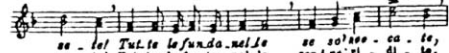
#### Andantino accorato



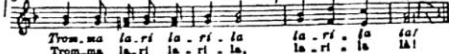
Tut - te le fun - da - nel - le as so' asc -  
Tut - te le fon - ta - nel - le son i - na - ri -



- ca - te, - Po - ve - ru - mo - re mi - o, Mo - re di  
- di - te, - Po - ve - ru - mo - re mi - o, muo - re di



as - te! Tut - te le fun - da - nel - le as so' asc - ca - te,  
as - te! Tut - te le fon - ta - nel - le son i - na - ri - di - te,



Trom - ma la - ri - la - ri - la la - ri - la la!  
Trom - ma la - ri - la - ri - la, la - ri - la la!

#### Text in Abruzzese Dialect

Tutte le fundanelle se so' seccate  
pover'amore mè more de sete.

Trommalarilarilà, l'amor'è bbele,  
trommalarilarilà, 'v'viva l'amor.

Amore, mi te' sete, mi te' sete  
Dov'è l'acqua che mi si purtate?

Trommalarilarilà, ecc.

T'aje purtate 'na giara de crete  
nghe ddu' catene d'ore 'ngateneate.

Trommalarilarilà, ecc.

#### Text in Italian

Tutte le fontanelle si sono seccate  
povero amore mio muore di sete.

Trommalarilarilà, l'amore è bello,  
trommalarilarilà, evviva l'amor.

Amore, ho sete, ho sete.  
Dov'è l'acqua che mi hai portato?

Trommalarilarilà, ecc.

Ti ho portato una giara di creta  
con due catene d'oro incatenate.

Trommalarilarilà, ecc.

#### English translation

All of the spouts have dried up  
My poor love dies of thirst.

Trommalarilarilà, love is beautiful.  
trommalarilarilà, long live love.

Love, I'm thirsty, thirsty,  
Where is the water you brought me?

Trommalarilarilà, etc.

I brought you a jar of clay  
with two gold links chained together.

Trommalarilarilà, etc.

## 2005 IFAFA Conference in Des Moines, Iowa, a Rousing Success!

IFAFa extends its appreciation to *Gruppo Il Trattenimento Italiano*, the folk dancers of Des Moines, Iowa, for hosting our fabulous 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference! The event was held at the Embassy Suites on the River from October 28 to 30, 2005.

Those who arrived early were treated to a Friday morning tour of "Italian" Des Moines. The tour included a visit to the wonderful Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa. We were dazzled by the Center's extensive collection of Italian memorabilia and delighted by the liveliness of the Center's President JoAnna Schmeling and the other staff who were there to show us around and answer our questions. The exterior wall mural (partially pictured, right) was unbelievable artistry!



Next, the Variety Club Trolley took us to the Graziano Brothers Grocery store where we drooled over their deli items and purchased some goodies-to-go. A stop at St. Anthony's Catholic Church left the group awe-struck with its beauty, and the delicious lunch at Tumea and Sons Restaurant left us filled with excellent food and the pleasure of having topped off a warm and welcoming afternoon.

Friday evening, following the business meeting, we celebrated "Christmas in Italy," including a visit from *La Befana*! Everyone received gifts from *la Befana* and the *Urna Fortuna*, and a special gift from the Board of the Italian-American Center of Iowa. A reception followed in the Hospitality Room, provided by the Des Moines folk dance group.

Saturday dance workshops were led by Blaise Panizzi of Pittsburgh, PA, and Jackie Capurro of San Jose, CA. Gene Fedeli of Rockford, IL, taught "Over and Under Palm-Weaving." Paul Torna of Philadelphia, PA, led a session on membership recruitment. Anne Marie Vacco of Des Moines gave a hands-on *guanti* cookie class.

Two sessions were led by Patricia Civitate, director of *Il Trattenimento Italiano*. The first described the *Bell'Italia* Italian Children's Day Camp. The other involved Feasts and Celebrations of Italy. A display of one such celebration, the St. Joseph's Altar and *La Vesteede*, was built by John Heldreth with assistance by Kathy Foggia, both of Des Moines.

A class on making dolls of *La Befana* was taught by Anna Marie Fiori of Pittsburgh, PA. Participants took home their own hand-made *Befana* dolls. Anna Marie also had a display of regional Italian headpieces which she had made. These headpieces have been donated to the Cultural Center.

Jim Cacciatore, choral director, led the combined chorus in songs which were later sung at the *Festa*. The piano accompanist was Therese Riordan. Both are from Des Moines.

The *Festa Folcloristica* opened with the Parade of Italian Regional Banners, narrated by Shirley Martignoni Fedeli of Rockford, IL, followed by scholarship awards which were presented to IFAFA member-attendees who were under 24, in order to encourage youth participation in IFAFA conferences.

Awards were presented to winners of the Photo Contest, where the topic was "Representing 'Italian'." In the Adult category, First Place went to Rose Scalise Sheridan of Rockford, IL. Jackie Capurro of San Jose, CA, took home Second Place. Third Place was a tie between Rose Scalise Sheridan and Karla Civitate of Des Moines. In the Student category, Chris Civitate of Des Moines went home with both First and Second Place awards.

Plaques of appreciation were presented to the Italian-American Center of Iowa, Tumea and Sons Restaurant, and John Mauro for their moral and financial support of IFAFA, the folk dancers, and the local Italian-American community.

Following the meal was a musical program of songs sung by the IFAFA Chorus and dances performed by *Vivaci*, Philadelphia, PA; *Il Quartiere Italiano*, San Francisco, CA; *Tradizione Vivente*, Milwaukee, WI; Blaise Panizzi of *I Campagnoli*, Pittsburgh, PA; and *Gruppo Il Trattenimento Italiano*, Des Moines, IA. The Al Ford Band provided dinner music and music for dancing following the performances.

The weekend conference concluded with Mass on Sunday morning, followed by farewells that always come all too soon! Thank you to Patricia Civitate, Chris Civitate, and all the dancers, family members, and friends of *Gruppo Il Trattenimento Italiano* for all your hard work! You did a great job!

## Il Saltner

Nel Trentino, a Caldaro c'è un interessante Museo del Vino (dedicato alla viticoltura d'Oltredige) che ha sede nei locali del trecentesco castello di Montetondo (Ringberg). Non manca la statua del Saltner, il più singolare personaggio delle campagne dell'Alto Adige. Il Saltner era il guardiano delle vigne, il cui nome deriva probabilmente da "Saltuarius," il custode di boschi e di vigne al tempo dei Romani. Era armato di pistola e di un lungo bastone, e portava nascosta sotto il giubetto una croce di ferro, da usare contro gli spiriti maligni. Il suo ufficio di custode di beni e di insone sorvegliante della notte gli conferiva virtù magiche e arcane. Egli prendeva possesso del suo posto di lavoro in agosto, il giorno dell'Assunzione, e da quel momento non poteva più allontanarsi. Scompareva definitivamente intorno al 1914.

(A dritta. Il costume in pelle del Saltner, il guardiano delle vigne, così com'è esibito nel Museo del Vino di Castel Montetondo.)

In Trentino-Alto Adige, at Caldaro, there's an interesting Museum of Wine (dedicated to viticulture in parts of the Adige) which is located in the 13th-century castle of Montetondo (Ringberg). Don't miss the statue of the *Saltner*, the most unique character of the Alto Adige countryside. The *Saltner* was the guardian, or keeper, of the vineyards, whose name probably derived from "Saltuarius," the guardian of forests and vineyards in Roman times. He was armed with a pistol and a long thick club, and carried an iron cross hidden beneath his waistcoat to use against evil spirits. His position of protector of goods and unsleeping caretaker of the night conferred upon him magical and mysterious powers. He would take up his workshop in August, the day of the Assumption, and, from that moment, he was not allowed to abandon his post. He disappeared conclusively around 1914.

Right: The leather costume of the *Saltner*, guardian of the vineyards, as it is displayed in the Wine Museum of Castel Montetondo.

## Italian Regions vs. Italian Provinces by Prof. / Cav. Philip J. DiNovo

Many Italian-Americans and others get Italian provinces mixed up with regions. If you ask someone in this country where they are from, they will give you the name of the city or village and the state. Many Italians, when asked the same question, will give you the name of the city or village and the name of the province. This makes it difficult to know where the person is from in Italy.

In Italy, the commune (*comune* in Italian) is usually a municipal entity, such as a city, town or village, plus the surrounding territory. There are approximately 8,000 *comuni* in Italy. You will find cities or towns of the same name in different parts of Italy, as you do in the United States. Who would know the location of thousands of Italian cities and towns?

The 94 provinces rank above the communes in sub-national government organization, but their powers are very limited. A province is similar to an American county. Provincial responsibilities are limited to such matters as care for orphans and the insane; prevention and control of disease; maintenance of secondary school buildings and grounds; and the construction and maintenance of roads not under communal or regional control. A province has no taxation power. Its major significance is an administrative

Ecco la descrizione del Saltner, detto "Saltario," dal libro *Il Costume popolare in Italia*, di Emma Calderini: Camicia di tela cotone con collo rovesciato. Giacca di grosso panno e calzon di pelle. Il panciotto è di fustagno; le



bretelle, di cuoio o di stoffa, sono quasi coperte da zanne di cinghiale e altri trofei di caccia. Calze a ferri, scarpe di pelle. Cinturone di cuoio lavorato. In testa, code di volpe, penne di gallo e altri volatili di montagna.

Here's the description of the *Saltner*, called the *Saltario*, from the book *Il Costume popolare in Italia*, by Emma Calderini: Shirt of cotton fabric with turned-down collar. Jacket of

heavy woolen cloth and knee-pants of leather. The waistcoat is of Fustian cloth (woolen worsted); the suspenders, of leather or fabric, are almost covered with boars' tusks and other hunting trophies. Knit stockings, leather shoes. Large wide belt of worked leather. On the head, foxtails and feathers of roosters or other mountain fowl.

field area of the state. Most of us do not mention the name of the county when we tell people where we are from, but Italians often do!

The highest sub-national government unit in Italy is the region. There are five special and fifteen ordinary regions in Italy for a total of twenty. The special regions are based on unique geographic, linguistic, cultural or economic distinction and have somewhat more autonomy than ordinary regions. The five special regions are: Valle d'Aosta, Trentino-Alto Adige, Sicily, Sardinia, and Friuli-Venezia Giulia. All regions are similar in organization. The regions possess exclusive legislative power in some fields and share complementary and integrative power with the Italian central government in other fields. Regions are similar to American states.

All of the regions' legislative powers must be exercised in compliance with the Italian constitution and the national interest, as judged by the central government. I hope you now see why it is so difficult to locate a place in Italy if you are given the province instead of the region. I now ask the person to give me the region where they come from and I have a much better opportunity to know where in Italy they come from.

## 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 Toscana.

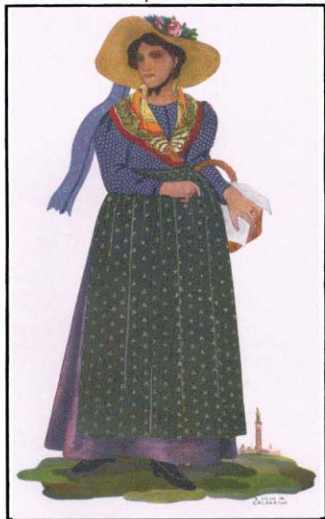


Buttero Maremmano (Cowboy from Maremma)

The shirt is of homespun cloth with a soft turned-down collar, with a [red] kerchief knotted in a bow-tie. The [brown] waistcoat is single-breasted and made of wool. Jacket and pants of [deep olive] corduroy. Chaps of goatskin cover the legs, fastened with buckles over the pants. Leather boots. A felt hat with a leather chin strap.

### Popolana di Siena (Townswoman from Siena)

The bodice, of [blue] patterned silk, is close-fitting, with sleeves gathered at the shoulder. The skirt, of [purple] shot-taffeta, is full, gathered in pleats at the waist. The apron is of [black or navy] silk or cotton with tiny designs. Cable-knit stockings. Leather shoes. The large straw hat is decorated with flowers and marbled ribbons; those which are tied beneath the chin are made of velvet. The neck scarf is of patterned silk. Coral earrings.



## Ethnographic Museums in Italy

This is the last of our series of listings of Italy's "ethnographic" museums which may contain folk materials for research purposes, we'll list of places of interest in the province of Salerno in Campania. Please feel free to send in any additions or corrections that you discover in your travels.

### Salerno

Museo della civiltà contadina c/o Scuola media statale 84060 MOIO DELLA CIVITELLA (SA) 0974 - 66143

Museo etnografico agro-silvano pastorale c/o Scuole municipali 84030 MORIGERATI (SA) 0974 - 982024

Museo della civiltà contadina Fraz. Ortodonico 84060 MONTECORICE (SA) 0974 - 984191

**Correction:** In the last issue of Tradizioni, there is a correction to the translation of the poem, "San Martino," by Giosuè Carducci. The first two lines should read: "The fog, drizzling, rises up the bristling hills." Thanks to Linda Carroll for catching this. -- the Editor

### Founder's Fund

The Elba Farabegoli Gurzau Founder's Fund was originally established as a living memorial to the founder of the Italian Folk Art Federation of America. Contributions for any intention, i.e. birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion, as well as in memoriam, are used only for artistic endeavors.

Donations may be made payable to IFAFA – Founder's Fund and mailed to IFAFA, c/o Rose Giarrusso, Treasurer, 103 Greenbrier Drive, Carnegie, PA 15106.

When sending a donation to commemorate an event, please provide the following information: Identify the occasion and give the full name of the individual to be honored. Also give the full name and address to whom the announcement is to be sent. The contributor should also provide his/her name, address and telephone number.

A special letter, announcing the contribution and naming the contributor, will be forwarded to the honored person or family, and an acknowledgement will be sent to the contributor.

### This Issue's Contributors

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

Linda Carroll	Lisa DeSanctis
Patricia Civitate	Mark DeSanctis
Susie Christiansen	Prof./Cav. Philip J. DiNovo
Linda DeSanctis	Paul Torna

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 President:** Paul Torna  
**email:** [paultorna@verizon.net](mailto:paultorna@verizon.net)

Mailing address:

c/o IFAFA  
P.O. Box 1192  
Rockford, IL 61105

### How to Contact Us



## 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

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.

**Tradizioni Editor:** Jackie Capurro  
**email:** [viva\\_ifafa@hotmail.com](mailto:viva_ifafa@hotmail.com)

Mailing Address:  
2512 Glen Hastings Court  
San Jose, CA 95148

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