



tradizioni

NEWSLETTER OF THE ITALIAN FOLK ART FEDERATION OF AMERICA

Editor: Jackie Capurro

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

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NO. 2

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I hope everyone has had a relaxing summer. As you make your travel arrangements for Milwaukee, think of yourselves as IFAFA Sales Agents! Sell IFAFA! If you are in a performing group, encourage your membership to attend the conference. If you know someone who's interested in Italian crafts or traditions, give them a copy of *Tradizioni* and invite them to the conference. Search on-line in your community. You may find an expert of an Italian craft that lives nearby. Contact Italian departments at local colleges and universities and email them the IFAFA webpage. Make an IFAFA presentation at local Italian clubs. We should continually strive to diversify the material and experiences that we can offer at the conferences. Every new IFAFA member helps us to accomplish this goal.

Paul Torna

See You in Milwaukee in October!

The 2006 IFAFA Conference will take place October 20, 21, and 22, 2006, at the Sheraton Hotel in Brookfield, Wisconsin. A reservation form for the conference and information for making your hotel reservations can be found on page 3 of this issue. Hotel reservations should be made before September 29, 2006. Your conference registration form and payment should also be received by that same date. When you pay for the entire conference, fees include Friday evening snacks; Saturday breakfast, lunch, and banquet; and Sunday morning breakfast.

Your hosts for this year's conference, *Tradizione Vivente*, have been very busy preparing for the conference, with plans for many interesting and fun workshops. Most workshops are listed on the registration form; others will be added as we get closer to the conference date.

Please note that the Scrapbooking Workshop requires advance reservation and a \$4.00 pre-payment. Space for this workshop is limited; pre-registration is the best way to ensure that you have a spot in the class. If space is available on the day of the workshop, payment will be accepted at that time. Bring 10 to 12 photos to use to create your scrapbook pages.

Tradizione Vivente is also planning some special pre-conference activities on Thursday and Friday which will require advance reservations. Tentative plans for Thursday evening include dinner at a nice Italian restaurant. Friday morning, our hosts are organizing a brief sight-seeing tour and lunch. Costs for these events are **not** included in your registration fees. Estimated costs are from \$20 to \$40 a day, depending upon your meal choices. On the registration form, be sure to check the appropriate space if you would like to participate in pre-conference activities; further information will then be sent to you.

As usual, Saturday night's *Festa Folcloristica* promises to be lively and delicious! The banquet choices are Chicken Wellington, Italian-Style Sirloin, or Shrimp Scampi. (Please mark your choice on your registration form.) IFAFA members who attended the 1999 Conference in Milwaukee will remember the wonderful band that played at the *Festa* that year. *La Nuova Immagine* will return to play for our dancing pleasure again this year.

Sunday morning, Mass will be offered at 10:00 am in the hotel. Our hosts are looking for a cantor to lead in traditional song at the Mass. If you are interested, please contact RoseMarie Crivello at 414-614-3851.

For any additional information, contact Conference Coordinator Linda DeSanctis by phone at 1-414-916-7461, or by email at <lindadesanctis@northwesternmutual.com>. Please complete and submit your registration form as soon as possible.

Des Moines 2005 IFAFA Conference DVD/CD Available

If you have not yet purchased your copy of the DVD/CD from the 2005 IFAFA Conference in Des Moines, Iowa, they are still available for \$30.00 each. The DVD contains instruction sessions for all the dances taught at the conference, as well as scenes of other workshops and displays and the Saturday evening *Festa Folcloristica*. This DVD/CD was professionally produced and is of excellent quality.

Please remember that the production of a DVD of this quality makes up a large chunk of IFAFA conference expenses. Please do not take advantage of readily-available copying technology to create "pirate copies." Support IFAFA by purchasing your own original copy. Why not buy a second copy to donate to your nearest Italian-American community center or local library as well?

For information about purchasing a 2005 IFAFA Conference DVD/CD, please contact Patricia Civitate by email at <Civitate9@msn.com>.

Must-See Folkloric Exhibits in Southern New Jersey!

If you live anywhere near southern New Jersey, you've got a fantastic opportunity to expand your knowledge of Italian folk arts! The Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center in Millville, New Jersey, is focusing on Italian culture and folkcraft this fall. Through December, 2006, in their Down Jersey Folklife Center, the "Artigianato Popolare: Italian Folk Arts and Crafts" exhibit displays Italian pottery, lace, glass, and puppets. The Gallery of Fine Crafts is also exhibiting and selling "Crafts of Italy" now through October 8, 2006.

The weekend of September 15 through 17, 2006, the Center is hosting a three-day *Festa dell'Arte*. Friday evening boasts a Venetian *Carnavale* Night with dinner, dancing, with music by Mario Salvatore and his band, and a special performance by Frizzi & Lassi.

Saturday, the theme is "Regional Diversity of Italian and Italian-American Culture," featuring demonstrations and workshops by over 100 local artists and guest artists from Italy. Of special interest to IFAFA members will be performances by *La Pacchianella* Folk Ensemble from Mont Sant'Angelo, Puglia, and *Musicalia* Folk Ensemble from Benevento, Campania.

Also performing on Saturday are Joe Soprani and the Italian Folk Trio of Philadelphia. Joe and his trio have recorded some Italian folk music for IFAFA, and they are excellent! Musician John Matulis, also from Philadelphia, will stroll through the crowd playing his accordion, and local high school students will sing traditional songs from Trentino-Alto Adige.

Sunday, "Italian Arts and Culture from the Medieval Times and Renaissance" will feature a Padre Pio procession and slide show, "The Adventures of Pulcinella" puppet show, and madrigals and other musical performances. An Italian Renaissance Wedding Performance from 15th-century Venice, will include a human chess match and village dances. Visitors are encouraged to come dressed in period costumes!

The Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center is located at 1501 Glasstown Road, Millville, NJ. For more information on specific times, events, and admission fees, please visit <www.wheatonarts.org>.

You've Come A Long Way, Baby!

by Al Zapalla

[Editor's Note: This article is reprinted, with permission, from the *All Things Sicilian* e-newsletter, which also links to their on-line site for purchasing items of interest to Sicilians and all Italians. Al Zapalla, CEO of *All Things Sicilian*, has extended to all IFAFA readers a discount of 15% by using the code "IFAFA" upon check-out at <www.allthingsicilian.com>. You can also sign up to subscribe to their on-line newsletter.]

When thinking of Sicilian women, some envision little old ladies dressed in black from head to foot, wrapped in shawls and stockings knotted at the knees.

Truth be told, the description fits both of my late beloved grandmothers, but boy oh boy, have women in Sicily come a long way, baby!

Due to the highly conservative Saracen (Arab) occupation that occurred in Sicily in the 10th and 11th centuries, Sicilian society adopted many of the customs and traditions of the occupiers. As a result, the Arab culture influenced the perception of women in Sicilian society.

First and foremost, the male was the absolute ruler of the household. As a matter of fact, at dinnertime he ate first, the best food, prior to the women or children. Women in the 10th and 11th centuries donned a burka-style dress, very similar to garments that we see on television today worn by Muslim women all over the world. The woman was precious to the man and had to be hidden lest she be stolen. And the feminine figure was never to be flaunted so as not to tempt any man, thus the shawl and burka. Black was (and still is) the color of mourning in Sicily and, since men often died long before their spouses due to the harsh and unforgiving living conditions, my grandmothers' garb has been traditional. Boy, have things changed!

Today's Sicilian woman is a modern woman; many hold high government positions or work in other areas to help support the family. Those black-garbed images are now a distant memory; even grandmothers are stylishly dressed!

High fashion abounds in Sicily. Palermo's *Via Roma* and Catania's *Corso Sicilia* are lined with every designer shop imaginable. Taormina, the Pearl of Europe, hosts the European jet set lifestyle. Siracusa, Messina, Trapani and Agrigento also exhibit the high fashion of the modern Sicilian era, and one only has to visit any swimming area to realize that Sicily now is firmly entrenched in the 21st century. Last week one of my business partners, Donnamarie Pignone, who travels to Sicily extensively, dropped by the Lawrence shop with a beautiful young Sicilian woman named Agata. Agata teaches at Babilonia Center for Italian Language and Culture in Taormina in Sicily, but has been teaching Italian this academic year as a visiting professor at Elon University in North Carolina. Her English was flawless, her dress impeccable, her spirit irrepressible.

Agata informed me that women now occupy over 50% of all university faculty positions in Sicily and that they have become a vital component of the Sicilian economy. Young girls are taught about equality, opportunity, and the dignity of women in general, and it has been that way for the last several decades.

I was happy to learn that Sicilian women, (and believe me, I think Sicilian women are absolutely the most beautiful creatures on this earth), have thrown off the yoke of oppression and now stand with their male counterparts, shoulder to shoulder as equals.

Another reason to be proud of our heritage!

IFAFA CONFERENCE -- OCTOBER 20, 21, & 22, 2006

Sheraton Brookfield Hotel

375 South Moorland Road, Brookfield, WI 53005

Reservations: 1-888-625-5144 (specify Italian Folk Art Federation of America Conference)

Website: <http://www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/search/hotel_detail.html?propertyID=347>

HOTEL / ROOM INFO

The 2006 IFAFA Conference will take place at the Sheraton Hotel in the Milwaukee suburb of Brookfield, Wisconsin. Hotel reservations should be made before September 29, 2006. Please contact the hotel directly for your room reservation(s). **BE SURE TO MENTION THAT YOU ARE ATTENDING THE ITALIAN FOLKART FEDERATION OF AMERICA CONFERENCE WHEN YOU RESERVE YOUR ROOM. For these rates, you must make your reservations BEFORE SEPTEMBER 29!** After that date, the rate will increase to the next best available rate.

The rate is \$109.00 + 13.1% tax per room (a maximum of four people per room). Each room features coffee-maker, TV with On-Command movies, two telephones with dataport (fee for High-Speed Internet access), iron, ironing board, hair-dryer, and complimentary *USA Today*. Hotel check-in begins at 3:00 pm; check-out is at noon. The hotel offers complimentary airport shuttle service between 6:15 am and 11:00 pm.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

For information on special pre-conference activities on Thursday and Friday, please see the article on page 1 and sign up below. Registration will be on Friday from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Following the 6:30 pm Friday business meeting, the theme of the evening will be Italian Games, including a Scavenger Hunt and Italian Card Games. A Hospitality Suite will be open following the Friday reception activities.

Dance instructions will be offered in the morning and repeated in the afternoon. Among other dances, Mark DeSanctis will teach *La Matriculla*. The IFAFA Choir will meet to rehearse songs for the *Festa* and Mass. Other workshops will include Italian Art History, *Bombonieri*, Italian Charades, Italian Liqueurs, Infused Olive Oils, Scrapbooking (\$4 fee), and Palm-Weaving.

Some activities will require advance reservations (see article, page 1). When your Conference reservation form is received, additional information will be sent to the registrants regarding those activities.

The lively Saturday evening *Festa Folcloristica* will feature *La Nuova Immagine*, the marvelous band which played at Milwaukee's 1999 conference, and on Sunday morning, Mass will be offered in the hotel.

For any additional information, contact Conference Coordinator Linda DeSanctis by phone at 1-414-916-7461, or by email at <lindadesanctis@northwesternmutual.com>.

PLEASE
PRINT
CLEARLY!

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

Nina Sedlmeier, S73 W14097 Woods Road, Muskego, WI 53150

Include your check (made out to IFAFA).

List one participant per form; please make photocopies for additional attendees.

Name _____ Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address (PRINT CLEARLY!): _____

Group Name (if applicable) _____

The deadline for early conference reservations is September 29, 2006. Please indicate the number of tickets needed in each category, and carry out the dollar amount:

Entire Conference:

IFAFA Member (adults)	\$100	X	_____	=	\$	_____
IFAFA Member (students through high school age)	\$75	X	_____	=	\$	_____
Non-Member	\$115	X	_____	=	\$	_____
Late Registration (after September 29, 2006)	\$125	X	_____	=	\$	_____
Saturday Workshops only (lunch included)	\$50	X	_____	=	\$	_____
Saturday Festa Folcloristica Only (for guests of IFAFA members)	\$35	X	_____	=	\$	_____
Scrapbooking Workshop (bring 10-12 photos with you)	\$4	X	_____	=	\$	_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Banquet Entrée Choices (please enter # of each) Chicken Wellington: _____ Italian-Style Sirloin: _____ Shrimp Scampi: _____

Please check if interested in: Thursday evening dinner _____ Friday sightseeing and lunch _____

A Brief Glimpse at Molise

By Lucy N. LaPorta

East of Naples on the Adriatic coast, lies the second smallest region of Italy (after Val d'Aosta), known as Molise. Less than half a million inhabitants sparsely populate its two provinces of Campobasso and Isernia. The landscape is broken up into open and monotonous ridges. Treeless fields extend as far as the eye can see to barren valley floors. These extensive uncultivated areas, overgrown with grass and bushes, serve as pasturelands. The roads run along the ridges so as to prevent landslides and rock falls. The rural roads consist of mule tracks.

Once famous for casting bronze bells, forging steel blades, and fashioning bagpipes, Molise is threatened with the loss of this claim to fame. Elderly artisans feel these crafts will soon become extinct; young people are no longer willing to learn the skills which furnished the Abbey of Montecassino and the Basilica of St. Paul in Rome with their giant bells. Molise was once known as the "Toledo of Italy," but the manufacture of steel blades is becoming a dying art, and soon the bagpipe will be just an *objet d'art* to be admired in a museum.

Molise is, however, one of the regions of Italy where *le sagre* are the main source of diversion for the people. Originally religious celebrations, *le sagre* commemorated the holy days in the liturgical calendar and were accompanied by village fairs and festivals.

La Sagra dei Misteri, a series of floats representing episodes from the lives of the saints, is held every year during the month of June. Notwithstanding the summer's heat, stoically silent children, dressed in heavy serge costumes, pose in these tableaux, proudly aware of the great honor to have been chosen.

The pagan *sagre* called *le carresi* are the harvest festivals in which floats, laden with produce grown in the region, are led through the streets. These floats, called *traglie*, are rustic, sled-type wagons, drawn by oxen. There are many *carresi* throughout the summer and fall, celebrating the fruits of man's labor and the gifts of mother nature.

In August, at Termoli and Campomarino, *la Sagra del pesce* lasts a whole week. Gigantic frying pans are set up on the Adriatic beaches, where *i friggitori* and *le friggitrici* spend the entire day frying up *frutta di mare*, the best variety of fish the Adriatic has to offer. There are also large cauldrons of *zuppa di pesce*. This *sagra* originally commemorated the episode in John 21, 1-14, in which Peter, having fished all night and having caught nothing, is urged by Christ to "Cast the net to the right of the boat and you will find them."

Molisan cuisine is simple and based heavily on what the region has to offer. For *la Sagra di S. Giuseppe*, held on March 19, in the villages of Campolieto, Riccia, and Casacalenda, loaves of bread, which have been blessed by the parish priest, are placed in baskets at the entrance of the church and offered to the passersby. The main event of the day is *la tavola de S. Giuseppe*, a meal consisting of lentils, cod, snails, pasta, potatoes, rice, salami, and a variety of cheeses, especially *la scamorza*. Among the guests invited to this banquet, there are three guests of honor who arrive dressed as Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. According to Paolo Toschi, this *sagra* is of Sicilian origin and commemorates the hospitality extended to the Holy Family on its flight into Egypt. In Sicilian folklore, it is not the flight into Egypt, but the flight into Sicily.

An ancient festival which draws both the young and the old at Carnevale is *il processo al diavolo*. This festival occurs in the village of Tufaro, where Lucifer-in-effigy is tried and found guilty of every possible crime. When the sentence is pronounced, the effigy is taken through the streets to the outskirts of the town and thrown into a precipice. This festival, of pagan and sacred origin, stems from the folk tradition of freeing oneself of fears, and from the constant need to purify oneself during the holy season of Lent. And so the devil is destroyed for another year, until he rears his evil head again and forces the townsfolk into another purification ritual.

In the village of Ururi, settled by the Albanians more than five centuries ago, the *Molisani* still speak the Albanian dialect and wear the Albanian costumes on the *sagra* days. The same is true of the Croatian colony at San Felice. Their festivals culminate in dancing the *marausac* around a great bonfire, to the accompaniment of the *bafu*, a drum with a rod in the center of the piskin which, when raised and lowered, produces a bizarre sound.

At Sannio, the ancient stronghold of the Samnites (warriors who fought for centuries against Roman supremacy), the archeological ruins atop the mountain known as *il Matese* are in sharp contrast with the pastures where shepherds and shepherdesses move from field to field trying to eke out a living. It is from this area that a shepherd dares to put into words the dream of his future with "*La Molisana*" (Editor's note: on facing page) whom he shall marry, and with whom he shall live in a little house on the mountain where they will welcome their first-born.

[Editor's Note: This article is reprinted from *Viltis*, a Magazine of Folklore and Folk Dance, December, 1981. Lucy LaPorta was a professor at the College of Arts and Sciences, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Rutherford, NJ. She was a member of the Italian Folk Ensemble *Ricordi d'Italia* of Fort Lee, NJ, and shared her knowledge with us at many IFAPA Conferences. Lucy passed away a few years ago.]

LA MOLISANA
(Molise, Italy)
Arranged by: Stan Purdy

Di - scen - de dal Ma - te - se la - mo - li - sa - na, la
Fre - men - te il pas - to - rel - lo in - na - mo - ra - to, in -
mo - li - sa na, Ha ne - gli oc - chi l'ar - dor, sul - la boc - ca l'a -
na - mo - ra to, Al ve - der - la o - gni di le sus - sur - ra co -
1. mor. Ro - sa bel - la, dim - mi si,
2. si.
io per spo - sa vo - glio te, Don Gia - cin - to già lo sa
che spo - sar - ci do - vrà Le co - ma - ri nott' - e di
si pre - pa - ra - no per - chè Ro - sa bel - la spo - se - rà,
spo - se - rà so - lo me - e - e - e - e.

La Molisana

Discende dal Matese la molisana, la molisana,
Ha negli occhi l'ardor, sulla bocca l'amor
Frememente il pastorello innamorato, innamorato,
Al vederla ogni di le sussurra così:

CORO: Rosa bella, dimmi "sì," io per sposa voglio te,
Don Giacinto già lo sa che sposarci dovrà
Le comari nott'e di si preparano perché
Rosa bella sposerà, sposerà solo me.

Ci sposeremo a maggio, con tante rose, con tante rose,
Sull'altare quel di, noi diremo un bel "sì"
Avremo una casetta sulla montagna, sulla montagna,
Ed un giorno chissà forse un bimbo verrà.

(CORO)

The Molisan Girl

The Molisan girl descends from Mt. Matese.
There's ardor in her eyes and love on her lips.
And when the enamored shepherd sees her
Each day, he whispers to her:

REFRAIN: Beautiful Rosa, tell me "yes," I want you for my wife.
Don Giacinto already knows that he is to marry us.
The women, day and night, are getting ready so that
Beautiful Rosa shall marry, marry me alone.

We'll marry in May with so many roses, with so many roses,
And on the altar that day we'll tell each other "yes."
We'll have a little house on the mountain, on the mountain,
And, one day, maybe, a baby will arrive.

(REFRAIN)

Regional Italian Folk Costume

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

Country Woman from Gildone, Molise

Cotton blouse with sleeves puckered at the shoulder and at the wrist, decorated with delicate embroidery and ruffled frills. Sleeveless vest of [dark moss green/brown] silk, with floral piping across the chest. The sleeves of the same material, are replaced over the blouse sleeves and tied to the vest at the shoulder with ribbons of purple silk. The blouse sleeves puff out between the over-sleeves and the vest. Full skirt [dark moss green/brown], gathered at the waist, buttoned in back, of silk with colored [black/brown] trims. Handkerchief of damask silk. Small [lavender] damask apron, gathered at the waist, with horizontal folds near the bottom. Knit stockings. Leather shoes. Hair gathered in braids at the nape of the neck. Dainty gold necklace.

The Fair at S. Orso

La Fiera di Sant'Orso, the Fair of Saint Orso, brings tens of thousands of visitors to Aosta from the various regions of Italy, as well as from surrounding European countries.

Each year, people gather during the last weekend of January to join in a celebration that highlights the creativity and industry of the Val d'Aosta's mountain people. Craftsmen and artists exhibit their work with pride and satisfaction. All of the traditional craft activities can be seen: wood sculpture and carving, wrought iron, objects crafted in the local *ollare* stone, and wool-weaving on ancient wooden looms, as well as lace, wicker, wooden ladders, barrels, and other household objects. The fair is a celebration of the strong historical and cultural identity of the valley.

During the Middle Ages, the fair took place in the area of the ancient town of Aosta around the Collegiate Church known as Sant'Orso. According to legend, it all began in front of the church itself, where Saint Orso, who probably lived during the early years of the 6th century, used to stand to distribute donations of clothing and sabots to the poor. Sabots are the traditional wooden clogs which are still sometimes worn in the area. Now the event covers the whole city center as well as the area around the Roman city wall.

The fair is also an occasion for music, folklore, and tasting the food and wine that are traditional to the area. It is truly a people's festival, culminating in the *Veillà*, a night of musical entertainment in the illuminated streets, which brings crowds of people to celebrate until dawn. A visit to the *Fiera di Sant'Orso* is a unique and unforgettable experience.



La Festa di S. Sebastiano The Feast of Saint Sebastian

Una fiera o un oratorio si trova ovunque si voglia. Ma una macchina sulla quale siano seduti dei bambini ignudi con una fascia rossa ai fianchi ed a tracolla, col capo coperto da un fazzoletto a mo' di turbante e con un mazzo di fiori ed una torcia in mano, ma non si trovano se non a Melilli (provincia di Siracusa, Sicilia), per la festa di S. Sebastiano il 20 gennaio. Ci sarà fresco, vento, sole, ci sarà quel che ci sarà, il voto dei genitori è stato questo: I bambini, spogliati al principiar della processione dei loro vestiti, che poi andranno divisi ad altri bambini poveri del paese, devono andare in giro col Santo come naquero.

Wherever you may go, you can always find a fair or an oratory. But only in Melilli (Province of Siracusa, Sicilia), for the feast of Saint Sebastian on January 20, will you find a cart on which are seated naked children with red banners down their sides and around their necks, their heads covered with kerchiefs tied like turbans, each child holding a bunch of flowers and a lighted torch. Whether the weather is cool, windy, sunny, whatever, their parents have made a vow. At the beginning of the procession, the children, stripped of their clothes that are later to be distributed among the poor children of the village, must travel the streets with the Saint as naked as the day they were born.

Support Italian American Centers

Do you have extra copies of Italian books, maps, language textbooks, dance instructions, sheet music, DVDs, cassettes or CDs? Have you thought of donating them to an Italian-American cultural center, or to a local school or library? This would be an excellent way for IFAFA members to share our cultural heritage with our communities.

Many of our IFAFA member dance troupes or choral groups work together with an Italian-American cultural organization, several of which maintain a community center or museum. If you have materials that you think may be of interest to them and are willing to donate, here is a partial list of such centers. Some of these centers are long-established; others are still in the planning or construction stages. It would be a good idea to contact them prior to sending your donated materials.

CALIFORNIA

Sacramento Italian Cultural Society
P.O. Box 189427
Sacramento, CA 95818
916-Italy-00 (482-5900)
www.italiancenter.net

Italian Community Center of San Diego
1669 Columbia Street
San Diego, CA 92101
619-237-0601
www.icc-sd.org

IOWA

Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa
1961 Indianola Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50315
515-280-3719
www.iaccolia.com

MISSOURI

Cultural Crossroads, Inc.
3605 Blue Ridge Blvd.
Independence, MO 64052
816-737-5979
www.culturalcrossroads-kc.org

NEW YORK

Italian American Museum
28 W. 44th Street, 17th Floor
New York, NY 10036
212-642-2020
www.italianamericanmuseum.com

American Italian Historical Association
P.O. Box 3136
Albany, NY 12202-0136
518-435-0591
www.aiha-albany.org

TEXAS

Italian Club of Dallas
P.O. Box 801202
Dallas, TX 75380
www.itcd.org

UTAH

Italian Center of the West
314 West 300 South #5
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
800-Do-Italy (364-8259)
www.italiancenterofthewest.com

WISCONSIN

Italian Community Center
631 E. Chicago Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202
414-223-2180
www.italianconference.com

If you are unable to send materials to an Italian American center, why not give your local schools, colleges, or libraries a call and see if they would like to add to their collection of materials about Italy and Italian-Americans?

If you know of other depositories of Italian culture, please forward their contact information to the editor of *Tradizioni* for inclusion in future issues.

"Music Paper" of Sardinia

Sardinians attach great importance to good bread. In many parts, they still bake it at home, starting with the winnowing of the wheat and milling the grain in small stone mills. After milling, the flour is sieved by the women who then knead it and bake it. There is a Sardinian proverb which says, "To be good, bread needs elbow grease," that is to say, anything worth having requires long and careful preparation.

Generally pure white, of hard grain that rises only a little, Sardinian bread is very tasty when new, but can be kept for several days, even up to two weeks. The shape varies according to the area in which it is made.

Squat, round, flat sorts baked in large quantities and kept in piles or up to two dozen under a cloth are typical especially of Barbagia, the heart of the island.

This type also includes the so-called *pane carasau*, which is also called "music paper." This is unleavened, crisp and light, in thin circles, with small marks produced during baking. Its keeps for a long time without going stale, and can also be soaked in soup or milk. It could be considered an ancestor of crackers, and it is the basic food of shepherds and sailors. Naturally, it is far tastier than ordinary hard biscuits. Shepherds, who spend months away from their families, take it with them into the mountains and, with it, they make soup by steeping it in hot water and eating it with slices of soft cheese, or with hard-boiled eggs, grated cheese, and tomato sauce. It is therefore one of their basic essentials.



How to Contact Us
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 Mailing Address:
 2512 Glen Hastings Court
 San Jose, CA 95148

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:

The DeSanctis Family Rita Tonitto
 Lucy LaPorta (posthumously) Al Zapalla
 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.

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.

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