



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. 2

Letter From the President

Dear Members,

As we get closer and closer to yet another IFafa conference, I can't help but to travel down memory lane and think back to the first conference I ever attended. It was in 1991, in Pittsburgh, PA. This has become such a great memory for me, as I was able to, for the first time, meet and share new experiences with other individuals outside of my hometown, who, like myself, found themselves to be consumed by the Italian culture. It was an entirely different world, yet such a familiar place for all of us. These were the days and times of Jane Ferro, past President, who was known to enthusiastically lead an entire group of Italians in song, not as part of a scheduled workshop, but as a pit stop in the hotel hallway because they happened to pass by a vacant piano. These were the days when you had the luxury of dancing alongside a frail, yet passionate and vibrant woman by the name of Elba, all the while knowing that this woman was the founder of IFafa, and ultimately was the one who made it all happen. These are the memories that have kept me coming back, year after year; never missing a single conference, all with the expectation that a new batch of memories will be formed.

How many of you, who share these same memories with me, will be at the upcoming conference in Dallas, TX? If not, what's the reason? How many of you, who have never been to a conference, or haven't been in several years, are looking to start your own collection of memories? I assure you, there is no better time than the present. The Dallas convention can become that starting point for many of you, just as Pittsburgh was for me. Let me take a moment to try to persuade you...

The non-increasing (declining is such a negative word...) attendance at our yearly conventions has troubled me quite a bit. It is certainly a trend that I know, if left unattended, will eventually lead to the elimination of any new-formed memories. With that being said, my goal for this year was plainly laid out in my last letter to you, and is fairly simple: Rejuvenate the membership to once again become involved in the growth of IFafa. In the last edition of *Tradizioni*, I outlined several points of my agenda with this organization. On Tuesday, September 11th, several of these points were realized.

I held a conference call with the other Officers and members of the Board of Directors to discuss the future of IFafa, conferring ideas on how to both maintain as well as grow our current image as the authority on Italian Folk Arts. The meeting lasted just over two hours, and quite frankly, with the amount of enthusiasm that was present, could have lasted another two. Several key issues were discussed, however I tried to steer the focus on the importance of creating three new active committees. Once again, these committees are as follows:

1. Membership
2. Folk Art and Development
3. Public Relations and Marketing

(continued on page 5)

Contact Your Board Members

IFafa Board Members will be having a conference call in mid-October. If you have items that you would like them to bring up on your behalf, please contact them:

Maria Alioto	malioto@earthlink.net
Doris Beckert	bdbeckert@sbcglobal.net
Joseph Bentivegna	1-814-472-8612
Mary Briggs	(no contact info at this time)
Jackie Capurro	viva_ifafa@hotmail.com
Patrick Capurro	p_capurro2004@hotmail.com
Maria Chobany	marchob@swbell.net
Chris Civitate	christo203@msn.com
Patricia Civitate	Civitate9@msn.com
Lucy Cullens	(no contact info at this time)
Tom Cunningham	terc@neo.rr.com
Meri DeLorenzo	italianfolk@lycos.com
Mark DeSanctis	MarkDeSanctis@gmail.com
Phillip DiNovo	(no contact info at this time)

Gene Fedeli	e.fedeli@insightbb.com
Anna Marie Fiori	amfpita@aol.com
Lorraine Gatti	ldg3115@msn.com
Rose Giarrusso	rosgia@webtv.net
Virginia Greenaway	(no contact info at this time)
Barbara Grieco	(no contact info at this time)
Anthony Le Pera	alepera@aol.com
Tom Maggiaro	reneelkm@cs.com
Adeline Makar	(no contact info at this time)
Blaise Panizzi	vivaitalia000@aol.com
Michael Rainone	mcrainone@cs.com
Bea Ricotta	bricotta@rrstar.com
Tina Stanford	StanfordTina@aol.com
Rita Tonitto	201-224-2809
Paul Torna	paultorna@verizon.net

I Musicanti, Musicians from Sicily

Meri DeLorenzo Howard, IFAFA Board Member and website host of *Meri's Italian Folksinging Page* <<http://www.italianfolkmusic.com/>>, received a request from Francesco Tumbarello, from Marsala (Trapani), Sicily. He is a member of *I Musicanti*, a professional Sicilian musical group which performs traditional Sicilian songs. They are very interested in performing in Sicilian communities in America. Their website <www.imusicanti.com> explains more about their group (in Italian only).

If you are interested in having *I Musicanti* perform in your area, you may contact Tumbarello directly (in Italian) through the group's website or at <cicciotu@msn.com>, or Meri has offered to assist with translating a contact if you email her at <italianfolk@lycos.com> or phone her at 702-327-9386.

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 Anna Marie Fiori, Treasurer, P.O. Box 1192, Rockford, IL 61105.

When sending a donation to commemorate an event, please: 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.

That's A Morra

Have you ever been to a picnic or social gathering and seen a group of men yelling and throwing fingers at each other? Did you ever wonder what exactly they were doing? Believe it or not, they were enjoying a game of *morra*, which just so happens to be a game that can be traced back to Roman times.

When I first watched my Dad play, I thought, "Wow, my Dad is playing Rock-Paper-Scissors. I know how to play this game," but, the more I watched, the more I realized that the game they were playing was not quite as easy as Rock-Paper-Scissors. In my game, I just had three choices. In the game my Dad played, he had more than three choices. The more I watched, the more I learned how to play and, quickly, I too was able to participate in a game of *morra*.

Object of the Game: Guess the total number of fingers extended by you and your opponent.

How to Play:

Determine how many rounds a person must guess correctly in order to win the match.

Start the game by having the two players face each other.

The hand that you are using generally remains visible to your opponent, and the other hand is usually placed to the side or behind your back.

Either at the count of three or some sort of predetermined signal, the players extend their fingers and shout out a number from zero to ten.

The fingers are counted to see if anyone guessed correctly.

If one of the players guessed correctly, they win the round.

If no one guessed the right number, then neither player wins that round. If they both guessed the correct answer, then it is a draw, and neither gets credit for winning the round.

Play continues until one of the players reaches the number needed to win the match.

Note: Zero is represented by extending your hand and making a fist.

The rules for this game are not that difficult. All you need is to find someone to play against and you are ready to go. The next time you are at a family gathering, you won't have to sit and watch. You will be able to join in on the fun and show them just how good you are.

For many of us, *morra* was more than just a game. It was an opportunity to learn yet another Italian tradition from our father, grandfather, or another family member. By taking an interest and learning how to play, we help to keep the traditions of our family and our heritage from being forgotten.

DVDs of Interest to Readers

There are two DVDs that I have found most enjoyable, and I think that our members would like to know about them.

The first is "Tuscany," by the internationally renowned musician Andre Rieu. This DVD was filmed in the city of Cortona showing *bell'Italia* while he and his orchestra play beautiful Italian songs. It is very moving when the camera catches shots of the audience while the songs are being performed, especially my favorite. *O Mio Bambino Caro (O Mio Babbino Caro)* by Puccini, and you see people in the audience with tears rolling down their faces.

Next is a film by Tony DeNonno, "Heaven Touches Brooklyn in July." DeNonno shows the glorious ritual known as *The Dance of the Giglio*. This 65-foot high moving monument to faith, folk-art, and family honors a Roman Catholic Saint, San Paoline di Nola, and his sacrifice for the people of Nola. The film shows 125 men carrying a five-ton, five-story, hand-built tower and a twelve-piece band through the streets of Brooklyn every year. I have four of Tony's other films: "Antonio Meucci: the Father of the Telephone;" "It's One Family: Knock on Wood," about the Manteo family who used to put on puppet shows with the Sicilian rod puppets; "Part of Your Loving," about an Italian baker in New York; and "John N. LaCorte: A Monument to History."

If *Tradizioni* readers are interested in learning more about films by Tony DeNonno, he can be reached at DeNonno Productions, 7119 Shore Road, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11209, 888-646-6614, <DeNonnoProdinc@aol.com>.

— Anna Marie Fiori

--Anthony Parente, www.ItalianRUs.com



Italian Folk Art Federation of America (IFafa)
November 2, 3 and 4, 2007
Hosted by *I Colori Italiani* and the Italian Club of Dallas, Texas
Conference Registration



Hotel reservations are made directly through Embassy Suites—code is IFA.

Embassy Suites Hotel—Dallas Park Central
 13131 North Central Expressway
 Dallas, Texas 75243
(972) 234-3300 or 1-800-EMBASSY

- Specify IFafa conference rate; **cut-off is October 22**
- 2-room suites/1 king or 2 double— \$99.00 + 15% tax / night
- Suite includes sofa bed; maximum 4-6 people per suite
- Check in 3:00 p.m. CST; check out Noon

To view information about the hotel on the Web: <http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/hotels/index.jhtml;jsessionid=LFF2A4UOU51UECSGBIVMVCQKIYFC3UUC?ctyhocn=DALTXES>.

Transportation from DFW Airport: SuperShuttle—\$21 one-way per person. No reservation is required—just follow signs in baggage area to **Ground Transportation. SuperShuttle: 1-800-258-3826** or www.supershuttle.com

Registration Information: Conference fee* includes all activities, workshops, refreshments, and meals for Friday reception, all day Saturday, Saturday evening *Festa Folcloristica* banquet, and Sunday morning. Tickets will be provided for each meal.

***Conference Fees:** \$ 110 IFafa Adult Member \$ 75 Member Student/Youth 22 & under (\$50 IFafa grant available**)
 \$ 125 Non-Member¹ \$ 135 Late Registration postmarked after October 22

Itemized Events: Per Person \$ 20 Pre-Conference luncheon at Italian Club of Dallas—11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Friday
 \$ 20 Friday evening reception & activities \$ 20 Saturday luncheon/program at Noon
 \$ 75 Saturday workshops and lunch \$ 50 *Festa Folcloristica* Banquet—Saturday 6:30 p.m.
 \$ 10 breakfast available for non-hotel guests on Saturday and Sunday mornings

Special Workshop Materials: \$ 10 Italian Mosaic Workshop Materials Kit \$ 20 Italian Bobbin Lace Workshop Materials Kit
 \$ 20 La Befana Doll Workshop Materials; Extra Kits \$15 ea.

¹ IFafa membership dues per year are \$25 per performing group plus \$5 per group member address; \$25 supporting organizations; \$10 individuals; \$5 students/seniors. To join, mail check & information to IFafa, P.O. Box 1192, Rockford, IL 61105. E-mail Gene Fedeli efedeli@insightbb.com.

Complete and detach the form below; **make check payable to IFafa**; mail form and check to:
Taryn Calli, c/o Accountable Business Services; 3003 LBJ Freeway, Suite #123; Dallas, TX 75234
 Questions? Call Carrie Pollinzi Harris at 972-242-8283 or marcar32@netzero.net.



Name(s) _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail Address _____

Group Affiliation _____ Have You/Group paid 2007 IFafa Dues? Yes No

Attending _____ Festa Banquet Entrée Choice: Chicken Piccata # _____ Beef Medallions # _____ Fish # _____
 Vegetarian # _____

Indicate below the number needed and carry out the cost: **Meals Only:** Friday Reception # ___ x \$20= \$ _____
 *Conference *IFafa Member Adult # ___ x \$110= \$ _____ Saturday Breakfast # ___ x \$10= \$ _____
Fees: *IFafa Member 22 & under # ___ x \$ 75= \$ _____ **Grant Saturday Lunch # ___ x \$20= \$ _____
 *Non-member # ___ x \$125= \$ _____ Saturday *Festa* # ___ x \$45= \$ _____
 *After Oct. 22 # ___ x \$135= \$ _____ Sunday Breakfast # ___ x \$10 = \$ _____
 Pre-conference Lunch # ___ x \$ 20= \$ _____ Saturday Workshops Only # ___ x \$50= \$ _____
 **See reverse side for youth grant request. Saturday Workshops & Lunch # ___ x \$75= \$ _____

Mosaic Kit # ___ x \$10= \$ _____ Italian Bobbin Lace Kit # ___ x \$20= \$ _____ La Befana Doll Workshop/Kit # ___ x \$20= \$ _____
 Extra Doll Kits # ___ x \$15= \$ _____

Total amount of check \$ _____

If registering a group: on a separate sheet of paper, list each individual's name, group association, IFafa member status, age for youth grant, fees/categories, & any pertinent information from back side of this form, and include with this bottom form portion.

2007 IFAFA Conference Registration Information

November 2, 3 and 4, 2007

Hosted by *I Colori Italiani* and the Italian Club of Dallas, Texas

IFafa is a non-profit cultural and educational organization whose purpose is to preserve and foster interest in Italian folk arts; to research Italian folklore, traditions, 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 also a member of the *Federazione Italiana di Tradizioni Popolari* (Italian Federation of Popular Traditions) in Rome, Italy. This 2007 IFAFA Conference will provide a weekend-long opportunity to come together to explore and celebrate our Italian heritage.

Preliminary Conference Schedule

Pre-Conference Luncheon: Join us for a visit and lunch at the Italian Club of Dallas, Friday 11:30a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Transportation will be available.

Photography/Art Exhibit in categories to include photography, art, or sculpture on the theme *Reflections on Italy* and submitted by students through age 22. Judging will take place Saturday afternoon.

Exhibit and Sale Items: Table space will be provided on Friday and Saturday for exhibit and sale items. Please complete the form below, indicating any special needs. You/your group are responsible for items and sales.

Friday Evening: 4:00-7:00 p.m. – On-site registration
4:30-7:00 p.m. – Italian Bobbin Lace Workshop (and on Saturday)
6:00-7:00 p.m. – IFAFA Board meeting
7:00-8:00 p.m. – IFAFA business meeting
8:00-11:00 p.m. – Friday evening reception and activities: Italian Jam Session—bring your instruments and join us around the piano for a review of IFAFA Chorus favorites; dancing fun from IFAFA conference repertoire; Italian games
Hospitality Suite following activities; late-night Italian movies

Saturday: 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. – Breakfast
9:00 - Noon and 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.– Workshops on the hour (some workshops run 1-1/2 to 2 hours)
Noon - 1:00 p.m. – Lunch and program including *I Piccoli Colori* of the Italian Club of Dallas and more
4:00 – 5:00 p.m. – IFAFA Chorus Workshop/Rehearsal and hymns for Sunday
6:00 p.m. – IFAFA Group Photo, followed by line-up for Parade of Banners
6:30 p.m.-Midnight – Festa Folcloristica Banquet IFAFA Appreciation Award
Dinner entrée choices: *Chicken Piccata or Beef Medallions* Prefer Fish? Vegetarian?
Welcome and Parade of Banners Cash Bar
IFafa Chorus and Folkloristic Dance Performances ·Dancing to The Fratelli Brothers
Hospitality room after banquet; late-night Italian movies

Sunday Morning: 9:00 a.m. Italian Mass in the hotel – Officiated by Msgr. Michael Duca



I would like to carry a banner in the Banner Parade & have a costume (Name) _____

I would like to exhibit: Name _____ Description _____

I have items for sale: Name _____ Description _____

Any special needs for exhibit/sale items? _____

I am participating in the Art Exhibit/Competition Yes _____ Artwork Photograph Sculpture Size _____
Name (do not put name or any identification on photo/artwork) _____

I/Our group would like to present a guest performance: Friday Evening at Saturday Lunch at Festa Banquet
Name/Group Name/City _____
Setup/Equipment Needs _____ Program Length _____
Program Title & Description _____

****Youth Grant:** I would like to apply for a \$50 IFAFA grant to support my conference attendance. In accepting this grant I agree to be an active participant in all conference workshops and activities. \$50 will be reimbursed after the conference.

Name _____ Age _____ Group _____

Signature _____ Parent/Director Signature _____

Regional Italian Folk Costume

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 Sicily.



LEFT: Carrettiere Siciliano (Sicilian Cart Driver)

The shirt of heavy homespun white cloth has simple pleating down the middle along the button line. The collar is soft, turned down, and closed with a woolen cord, ending in red tassels or tufts, or with a patterned scarf, knotted in front. The sleeves, ruffled at the wrist, simply button up. The double-breasted jacket and pants are of black velvet or other heavy material. The vest, when worn, usually compliments, in fabric and color, the rest of the outfit. Pants are buttoned at the side of the knee. The stockings are knit, white or black, of wool or cotton. The boots are of leather. At the waist, a sash of wool, silk, or cotton, trimmed with fringe. On the head, a stocking cap of black wool or cotton, trimmed with a tassel.



ABOVE: Popolana di Palermo (Woman of Palermo)

Bodice of red and black plaid cotton or wool, hooked in the back and very close-fitting. The skirt, of the same fabric as the bodice, but in thin stripes of green, black and red, is rather full, gathered at the waist, raised at one side to allow the white cotton petticoats to be seen. The apron is also of cotton, gathered at the waist. On the head, over the hair, which is parted in the middle and braided, is a cotton handkerchief. Red knit stockings. Black leather slippers.

Avrai tu l'universo, You may have the universe,
Resti l'Italia a me. Leave Italy for me.

from *Attila*, music by Giuseppe Verdi, libretto by
Temistocle Solera

Letter From the President

(continued from page 1) These committees will ultimately become the key to obtaining our goals as an organization. As a member of IFafa, your voice should be heard!!! I've asked the Board of Directors that the organizational model of each committee consist of, at minimum, five members, broken down as follows: One Director to serve as Chairperson, along with two additional Directors and *at minimum* two non-Board members to fill out the minimum requirements.

The "*at minimum* two non-Board members" should be key. Simply stated, I'm looking for **your** input!! What do we, as an organization, need to do to sustain your membership, foster growth, and ensure the future of IFafa? I'm especially looking for input from our younger members. Clearly, your ideas and opinions will hold a great deal of value to me on how to move this organization through to the future. (If I could persuade you even further, being actively involved in a committee for IFafa would look great on your résumé...hint, hint!)

Below, as always, is my contact information. I ask that each one of you take the time to consider this great opportunity to once again become actively involved in this organization's future. Perhaps you are interested in becoming a member of one of the committees. Perhaps you have a lot of great ideas on how to cultivate and advance our organization. In any case, please send me an email, and tell me your thoughts. I'm a very receptive person, and will openly accept any feedback you might have, whether positive, negative, or otherwise. Finally, in order to give you a little heads-up, you should expect our Friday night meeting in Dallas to be anything **but** ordinary. I plan to do some very different things with the general membership that is present, and will encourage everyone to take a more active role in increasing their group's participation in IFafa. The time is now – Send in your registration forms today (see pages 3-4)!!

The next conference call for IFafa's Board of Directors is scheduled for mid-October. I genuinely hope by then that I will have heard from a number of you out there, aspiring to build upon your own collection of IFafa memories, for many, many years to come. Until then, I look forward to speaking with each and every one of you in Dallas, TX!!!

Sincerely,

Mark DeSanctis, President
< Mark.DeSanctis@gmail.com > (414) 550-6419

How to Contact Us

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 Mailing address:
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 Menomonee Falls, WI 53051



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email: viva_ifafa@hotmail.com
 Mailing address:
 2512 Glen Hastings Court
 San Jose, CA 95148

Book about *la Befana* and Call for Translation Assistance

Siblings Claudia and Luigi Manciocco are the authors of the book, *L'incanto e l'arcano: Per un'antropologia della Befana*, recently published by Armando Editore. The work discusses folkloric traditions of various regions of Italy compared with others throughout the world and contains an anthropological, historical analysis of the *Befana* figure. The Mancioccos have researched *la Befana* for nearly 20 years and previously published another book on the subject. They hope it will be of interest to Italian Americans as well as Italians.

Luigi Manciocco would be willing to travel to the United States to present the book to any Italian American association. The Mancioccos are also interested in finding someone to assist them with an English translation of the book so that it can be published in the U.S. Anyone interested in assisting with a translation, or in inviting Luigi Manciocco to speak at an event, please contact him by email at <buffania@fastwebnet.it>.

This Issue's Contributors

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

Maria Chobany	Mark DeSanctis
Alice Cleary	Anna Marie Fiori
Meri DeLorenzo-Howard	Anthony Parente

In Memoriam: Maria Reiter

Maria Reiter was born and raised in North Hill, in Akron, Ohio. She was a member of *I Gagliardi Italiani* for eighteen years, performing as our featured soloist, before she died of cancer in June, 2006. Her fellow IGI members miss her terribly. What a lovely soprano voice she had!

And, how she loved to sing! Maria started singing for others when she was only three years old. As a child, she sang at DiVitis Italian Deli & Market, earning oranges for her efforts. Maria even had an audition at the Metropolitan Opera when she was sixteen, garnering much praise ... and second place! She sang wherever, and whenever, she was asked, and did so with grace and joy. She had opportunities for a professional singing career, but chose instead to marry Michael Reiter, the love of her life, and they raised two sons and two daughters. These children gave them six grandchildren!

Always active in her faith, Maria visited Mother Angelica numerous times. Maria also made it her mission to make rosaries to send to Africa. In 2003, at the IFAFA Conference hosted in Canton, Ohio, Maria offered a class in Rosary construction. She especially loved singing *Ave Maria*, and when she sang *Mamma*, it was impossible not to shed a tear for the privilege of hearing her voice sing those heartfelt words.

Thank you Maria for being a part of IGI and IFAFA! We celebrate your life!

The purpose of the ITALIAN FOLK ART FEDERATION OF AMERICA (IFAF A) 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.

IFAF A 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.

MEMBERSHIP in IFAFA

I am interested in:

Annual Membership

Performing Folk Group \$25.00, plus \$5.00 per member address (if new, send for application)

Supporting Organization \$25.00 (non-performing)

Individual \$10.00

Student/Senior Citizen \$5.00

Contributing to the work of IFAFA \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Contributions are tax-deductible. Make checks payable to "IFAF A."

Mail to:
 IFAFA Treasurer
 P. O. Box 1192
 Rockford, IL 61105

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