



# tradizioni

NEWSLETTER OF THE ITALIAN FOLK ART FEDERATION OF AMERICA

Editor: Jackie Capurro

IFafa Website: [www.ItalianFolkArtFederation.org](http://www.ItalianFolkArtFederation.org)

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No. 1

## Letter From the President

Dear IFafa Members,

Since I last wrote you, several very important developments concerning IFafa have taken place. I'd like to share these developments with you, and hope I can keep your attention until the final few paragraphs, where I will reveal the most important of them all – information regarding our upcoming IFafa conference!

First, let me just express how extremely pleased I am at the number of responses I've received over the past few months in regards to our latest registration drive. This year, IFafa has more than **quadrupled** the amount of revenue received via donations and dues over last year. Donations alone, from our most generous givers, reached an amount just under \$1000! In these tough economic times, that level of giving far exceeded our expectations, and simply goes to show one thing – that the desire to preserve our Italian heritage is ultimately unaffected by life's challenges.

Along with the incoming registration cards, came several wonderful notes and letters from individuals wishing IFafa well, expressing their gratitude to our organization for keeping the Italian culture so strong here in America. I'd like to thank those members for their positive message, and let them know that we will continue on that path for many years to come.

In related news, it is my pleasure to announce that IFafa was recently awarded a \$1000 mini-grant for its cultural work. This grant, presented unconditionally by the American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit, affords IFafa the ability to position itself as a more respected and valued authority on the subject of Italian folk arts. We will use this money towards research, as well as towards the launch of one of our new publications, soon to be released. On behalf of our organization, I would like to thank ASILM for their generous grant towards the good of IFafa. Please visit their website, <<[www.asilm.org](http://www.asilm.org)>>, for more information regarding this wonderful organization.

Next, it is with great excitement that I announce to you, following many, **many** months of work, that our new website, <<[www.ItalianFolkArtFederation.org](http://www.ItalianFolkArtFederation.org)>>, will be live within the next few weeks! This new website will provide unbridled functionality, allowing IFafa to better control, organize, gather, and ultimately disseminate the vast amount of information held within our domain. This is not only a win for IFafa – for its current position as well as future existence – but also a win for our members, who will now be only one click away from the immense amount of data – all kept up-to-date, and all contained under one single website. I urge you to visit the new site as soon as you finish reading this newsletter!

Finally, and most importantly, it is time to officially announce the location and dates of this year's IFafa conference – this year, the conference will be held October 15<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>, in exciting Las Vegas, Nevada!!!

Meri DeLorenzo Howard, the coordinator of this year's events, has an absolutely thrilling agenda planned for the weekend. The events this year will cover two full days instead of one, and will be hosted in the Riviera Hotel and Casino. IFafa has secured a phenomenal hotel rate for this year - \$99!!! The Riviera Hotel has recently (continued on page 2)

## IFafa 2009 in Las Vegas

This year, the annual IFafa conference will be held at the Riviera Hotel and Casino on the world-famous Las Vegas Strip on Friday and Saturday, October 16 and 17, 2009. The IFafa conference is different this year because we are changing the format to include **two full days** of workshops (Friday and Saturday) instead of one Saturday as we have done in the past. We are hoping that this will give everyone an opportunity to learn dances and try other workshops as well. So, when making your travel arrangements, plan to arrive in Las Vegas by Thursday evening at the latest.

Our annual meeting will be Friday afternoon instead of Friday evening to give participants the opportunity to see a Las Vegas show or explore Las Vegas in the evening. We will still have our Friday evening hospitality suite party as usual, and the conference will again culminate with the Saturday evening *Festa Folcloristica Italiana*, in the ballroom on the top floor of the Riviera, overlooking the bright and colorful neon view of the Strip. During free time, for participants too young to gamble or for people looking for something different, Circus Circus is across the street from the Riviera. It features a large arcade and circus acts throughout the day and evening.

The conference will come at the end of a week full of Italian festival activities starting on Columbus Day, October 12. Activities will include concerts and workshops by individuals and groups from Italy, special receptions and parties. The concerts and workshops will take place on the campuses of the College of Southern Nevada and the University of Nevada Las Vegas as well as other community cultural centers. We will have a shuttle bus available to take people from the Riviera to the venues. This will be an exciting week with opportunities to learn dances and music from the people who perform them in their local village in Italy. More information about the festival will be coming soon. When making your reservations to come to the conference, consider staying all week if you can. (continued on page 2)

## Letter From the President

(continued from page 1) undergone significant renovations, and the location – directly on the Strip – easily made it our top pick for this year's facility.

Please visit our website <[www.ItalianFolkArtFederation.org](http://www.ItalianFolkArtFederation.org)> for more details. You can view preliminary planned workshops, register directly online, and keep up-to-date with information through the website's blogging and forum capabilities.

I sincerely hope you are planning to attend! Due to the very high level of interest this year, as well as a limited amount of available hotel space, it is my **strong** suggestion that you or your organization make hotel reservations TODAY! When booking, please book under the Italian Folk Art Federation of America name to get the special rate.

Once again, I thank you for your support of the Italian Folk Art Federation of America, and look forward to speaking with each and every one of you in the very near future!

Mark DeSanctis

President, Italian Folk Art Federation of America

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### IFAF 2009 in Las Vegas

(continued from page 1) Be sure to visit the new IFAFA website, at <<[www.ItalianFolkArtFederation.org](http://www.ItalianFolkArtFederation.org)>>, which will carry more information about registering for the conference, hotel rooms at the Riviera, and the Folk Festival. The conference registration form will also be available online, or you may complete and submit the registration form found on page 3 of this issue of *Tradizioni*.

— Meri DeLorenzo

### Vivaci Performs at Flower Show

*Vivaci* performed at the Philadelphia Flower Show February 28 and March 7-8. This annual event held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center is organized by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and is one of the largest indoor flower shows. The theme was *Bella Italia*.

*Vivaci* performed 30-minute sets and strolled the beautiful Italian gardens to add color to the event. One of the displays featured a Venetian garden with a pool and full-size gondola.

*Vivaci* recently had several costumes made from the Emma Calderini book (Sicilia, Liguria, Lucania). In addition, Caterina Dawson and Rita Genovese made costumes from their native Calabria and Hading Liberi made a costume from Abruzzi. The Flower Show was a great success and a real *Vivaci* spirit builder. Hading Liberi placed some videos on YOUTUBE (search *Vivaci* Flower Show). Enjoy the Flower Show with us!

— Paul Torna, *Vivaci*

### Gruppo Il Trattenimento Italiano, Des Moines, IA.

The *Ragazzi* of this folk dance group were greatly involved in the *tupa tupa* pageant that they present each year at the St. Joseph Altar celebration held at the Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa. This "knocking" ceremony, at three different doors of the Center, which begins the celebration, precedes the blessing of the Altar and the typical Lenten meal which is served. This pageant depicts Jesus, Mary and Joseph with the Angels and Saints as they seek food and shelter.

The adult dancers are undertaking several fund-raising events so that they will be financially able to attend this year's IFAFA Conference. One of these projects is the making of bushels and bushels of Italian cookies for graduation parties and weddings. The young men of the group also lend a hand. Another is the serving and clean-up of the "Dinner With Culture" series held at the Cultural Center. The ladies are also having new *costumi* made for their performances this summer and fall.

-- Patricia Civitate, *Il Trattenimento Italiano*

### Balliamo Performs at Camellia Festival

*Balliamo* was one of about fifteen local folk dance groups who exhibited their dances at the annual Camellia Folk Dance Festival, held in Sacramento on Sunday, March 15. The groups were held to only eight minutes so that there would be enough time for all in the two and a half hour afternoon dance concert. The international festival is staged by the local Sacramento Folk Dance Council. *Balliamo* has been invited to dance for over ten years, and it is the highlight of our season.

The dances *Balliamo* performed were *Tarantello di Coi-bois*, a dance choreographed by a former member, and *Cicerinella*, an IFAFA favorite. The entrance, transitional, and exit music and steps were from *Ballo Abruzzese*, taught by Jackie Capurro at the 2008 IFAFA conference. A video clip can be viewed online at <<[www.folkdance.com/sacramentocouncil/camsun.htm](http://www.folkdance.com/sacramentocouncil/camsun.htm)>>.

-- Doris Beckert, *Balliamo*

### Italian Folk Art Room in Albany, NY

I would like the membership to know that we have an Italian Folk Art Room in the American Italian Heritage Museum & Cultural Center. We have a large collection of southern Italian folk art but weak in the area of northern Italy. We would gladly accept donations of Italian folk art; please write or call: 1227 Central Ave, Albany, NY 12205 or (518) 435-0591. You may also email me at <<[pdinovo@nycap.rr.com](mailto:pdinovo@nycap.rr.com)>>. After four years of remodeling and fund-raising, we hope to open in late Spring. Many of you visited our Museum in Utica (1985-1998) when the IFAFA Conference was held in Utica, NY, in 1989. A wonderful time with many dear friends who have passed away.

-- Prof./Cav. Philip J. DiNovo, Exc. Director

### Women's Day in Italy

March 8th marks International Women's Day. Although not celebrated around the world, it is an important day for women in Italy.

There are several theories about the origin of Women's Day. On March 8, 1908, more than 15,000 women marched through New York City protesting low wages and unsafe working conditions. After World War II, *Unione Donne Italiani* marked March 8 as a national holiday for women. Today it's a day of celebration of the social, political, and economic advances made by many women throughout the world, as well as a day of appreciation for women.

In Italy, it has become a tradition for women to give each other a sprig of mimosa, a yellow flower, to commemorate this special day. The flower has become a symbol of *La Festa della Donna* and a sign of respect for women. Send *mimose* to the women in your life!

-- Rose Giarrusso

**2009 Las Vegas Conference Information and Registration Form  
 Italian Folk Art Federation of America (IFAFA)  
 October 16-17, 2009  
 Held at the Riviera Hotel and Casino  
 2901 Las Vegas Blvd S., Las Vegas, NV 89109**

Hotel reservations are \$99 per night and a link to reserve a room will be available soon through the IFAFA website. Please reserve your hotel room by mentioning 'The Italian Folk Art Federation of America' because that is how we are able to keep the conference fees this low.

**Registration Information:** The conference fee includes all workshops for Friday and Saturday, two lunches and the *Festa Folcloristica Italiana* dinner dance. Both Friday and Saturday workshops will include morning and afternoon sessions. There will be dance workshops for both performance and social dancing. Other workshops will feature folk music, various instrumentation, and other cultural topics. We will have instructors from Italy. More details about workshops will be in the next issue of *Tradizioni*.

If you are registering for your entire group, please fill out a separate registration form for **each** person. (You may photocopy this form as needed.) You can send one check for the entire group and mail all the forms together. **Make check payable to IFAFA.**

Mail form and check to: Meri Howard, 8174 Las Vegas Blvd. S. #109-400, Las Vegas, NV 89123.

Questions? Call Meri at (702) 327-9386 or E-mail to <<italianfolk@lycos.com>>.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Group Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_ IFAFA Member? \_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_no

**Friday lunch choice: (Please choose one)**

- \_\_\_\_\_ **Mediterranean Box Lunch** Grilled Vegetables, Hummus, Tabouleh Salad, Stuffed Grape Leaves, Pita Triangles and Red Grape bunch
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Ciabatta Sandwich** Salami, Capocollo, Mortadella, Provolone and Dressing, Choice of Fruit, Chips and Cookie
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Turkey Sandwich** Sliced Roasted Turkey with Field Greens, Sliced Green Apple, Gorgonzola cheese on Ciabatta, Choice of Fruit, Chips, and Cookie

**(Saturday's lunch will be a deli buffet.)**

**Saturday evening Festa Banquet entrée choice: (Please choose one)**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Pacific Fresh Salmon Filet topped with fresh tarragon and lime
- \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Sorrentino, a chicken breast filled with roasted pepper, spinach, and mozzarella cheese

(Contact Meri if you require a vegetarian or special menu.)

Adult	\$150	_____
Student (22 and under)	\$110	_____
<i>Festa</i> Banquet ONLY (for guests of conference participants)	\$50	_____
After August 1, 2009 add a \$25 late fee.	\$25	_____
<b>Total</b>		_____

# La Canzone del Ciuccio

The musical score consists of six staves of music in 3/4 time, written in a key with one flat (B-flat). The chords indicated above the staves are: Dm, A7, Dm, D, Gm, Dm, A7, Dm, A7, Dm, Gm, Dm, A7, Dm, A, Dm, Last time Dm.

Quann so jut alla fie-er  
 m so ccattat nu ciu-ucc,  
 c'iai miss nom G-ru-ucc  
 nun m n pozz scurda.

Rit.  
 La voc ca tne-ev  
 parev nu teno-or,  
 e ciucc bell, ciucc e stu cor  
 nun m n pozz scurda.  
 Hiiii Hooooo Hiiii Hoooo.

Quan m'e mort mghie-rm  
 m so ccattat u prsciu-ut,  
 mo che m'e' mort G-ru-ucc  
 i m so mmis u lutt.

Rit.  
 Chiagnit chiagnit uagliun  
 ca mo m'e' mort u ciu-ucc,  
 c chiamaev G-ru-ucc  
 nun m n pozz scurda.

## English translation

When I went to the fair  
 I bought a donkey,  
 I called "him" Giruccio  
 I cannot forget him.

Chorus  
 Oh, his beautiful voice  
 He sang like a tenor,  
 darling donkey, donkey of my heart  
 I cannot forget you.  
 Hiiii Hooooo Hiiii Hoooo.

When my wife died  
 I bought some ham,  
 now, Giruccio has just died  
 and I am in mourning.

Chorus  
 Let's cry sons  
 now my donkey has died,  
 his name was Giruccio  
 I cannot forget him.

### Recruiting Dancers for Your Troupes?

If your dance troupe is currently looking to boost new membership, Rita Genovese from Philadelphia's *Vivaci* dance troupe is sharing a letter that they use to reach out to those involved in Italian-American organizations in their area. Feel free to adapt it to fit your situation.

Wanting to relive emotional and physical involvement, empty nesters are discovering how good Italian Folk Dancing can be for body and soul.

Dancing a few hours, as part of an informal dancing – and which equates to burning the calories associated with walking a few miles – can be more than just a fun thing. For those longing for personal interaction, Italian Folk Dancing's swirls and partner exchanges offers the type of safe human interaction that fills a void for many empty nesters.

The fun of dancing in uniquely traditional Italian attire, colorful ruffled skirts, shirts/blouses, shawls and headaddresses, wearing your grandmother's jewelry is just part of the allure of good old clean fun that attracts many who are looking to establish new ties. Indeed, many Italian Folk Dancing Groups offer all manner of lessons to those interested in Italian Folk Dancing throughout the United States. For more information log on to the website of the Italian Folk Art Federation of America <<[www.ItalianFolkArtFederation.org](http://www.ItalianFolkArtFederation.org)>>, our national organization (e-mail contact <<[viva\\_ifafa@hotmail.com](mailto:viva_ifafa@hotmail.com)>>).

So, for a small investment, many urban singles and couples find that they can combine their needs to interact and exercise while enjoying this uniquely Italian form of traditional social dancing.

(Complete this paragraph with your troupe's information) An Italian Festival and the *Vivaci* Italian Folk Dancing go hand in hand. Headquartered in South Philadelphia, the *Vivaci* Italian Folk Group offers ongoing bi-weekly classes on Saturday mornings for beginners, intermediate and advanced dancers. For further information, please contact (name), Director, via phone (phone number) or e-mail (email address), or log onto our web site (site address).

-- Rita Genovese, *Vivaci*

### Festa of San Giovanni

Frances Toor had a wonderful ability to capture the spirit of the many festivals she visited while visiting Italy after World War II. Here is a great passage. [An excerpt from **Festivals and Folkways of Italy** by Frances Toor, 1953 (pp197-98).]

For the *fiesta* of San Giovanni, June, 24<sup>th</sup> (in Rome), the somber piazza and surrounding curving streets take on life and color. Windows and balconies are decorated with the usual rich colorful cloths; the streets are illuminated with electric lights and colored lanterns and are flanked with stands selling toys, sweets, foods and noise making instruments.

The church services are solemn and impressive. On the eve, the vicar cardinal blesses the plants which will be taken to the sick and the following morning celebrates High Mass. At the solemn vesper services the choir sings the hymn *Ut queant laxis resonare fibris*, the first verse of which inspired Guido di Arezzo to invent the musical scale in the eleventh century.

At night, the *fiesta* is gay and noisy. The traditional food is roast suckling pig and stewed snails. People eat a lot and drink more. They play and sing and take part in competitions for which songs are composed in the Romanesco dialect. Some of them like "Vecchia Roma" (Old Rome) and "Amore sotto la Luna" (Love in the Moonlight) have been popular for years.

San Giovanni, St John the Baptist, is the harbinger of summer, and in southern Italy his festival is connected with practices concerning health, love and marriage. In Rome, however the strange old beliefs are remembered. They say that on the eve of the *fiesta*, witches descend upon the homes of people. The way to keep them from entering the house and doing harm is to spill salt on the doorstep and to leave a broom there. It takes them so long to count the grains of salt that they only have enough time left to mount the brooms before dawn to fly off to their witches Sabbath. A survival of this fear of witches may be seen in the little clay bells, trumpets and other noise making instruments, for noise is believed to drive away evil spirits in the air. And the strings of garlic and red carnations are sold to be worn as protection against the evil eye (*malocchio*) and witchcraft (*jettatura*).

-- Paul Torna, *Vivaci*

### Week of Italian Folk Dance Instruction at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in July

The Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2009 in California is having one whole week of Italian folk dances from July 26 to August 1. One of the teachers will be Roberto Bagnoli who grew up in Rome, where he was first introduced to folk music and dance, eventually taking part in several performances and teaching dance classes. He subsequently studied various forms of folk dance in workshops throughout Europe, Israel, and North America under the guidance of renowned choreographers and teachers. Roberto now lives in Reggio Emilia in Northern Italy, considered to have one of the most important dance communities in Italy.



From 1995 to 2003, he performed as a dancer and choreographer with the *Terra di Danza* Dance Company and was involved in the production of *Raggi di luna Italiana* and *Capriccio Italiano* (Italian dances), *GiroGiroMondo* (dances from around the world), *Keltic Emotion* (Celtic dances), *Mazal Tov* (Israeli dances), and *Ethnos* (international folk dances). Bagnoli is the founder of *Folk Atelier Reggio Emilia* (FARE), devoted to the development and conservation of folk dance heritage. As director of FARE, he is in charge of organizing and conducting folk dance classes, workshops with Italian and foreign specialists, and of the performing sector, staging various performances, parties, and dance gatherings.

The Stockton Folk Dance Camp takes place on the campus of the University of the Pacific. For further information, visit the Camp's website at << <http://www.folkdancecamp.org/> >>. For those also interested in other international folk dance, there is also a second week, with other ethnic dance emphases.

## Assistance for Abruzzese Earthquake Victims

Although it has mostly disappeared from American media, the after-effects of the huge earthquake earlier this month continue in the Abruzzo. If you are interesting in contributing to help the victims of the recent earthquake in the town of L'Aquila and other small towns in the region of Abruzzo in central Italy, here are a few ways you can help.

The **National Italian American Foundation (NIAF)** has established a special NIAF/Abruzzo Relief Fund. For more information, or to donate online, visit <<[https://www.niaf.org/relief/Relief\\_info.asp](https://www.niaf.org/relief/Relief_info.asp)>>.

Donations may also be sent to the **Italian Red Cross, Croce Rossa Italiana**. For more information, or to donate online, visit <<<http://www.cri.it/donazioni/index.php?mode=form>>>.

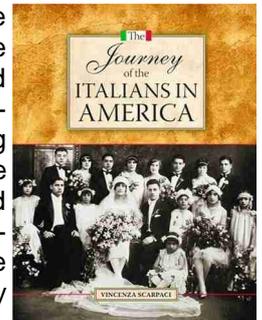
Another option is through the **Italian American Museum** in New York City. Checks can be dropped off or mailed to the Museum, located at 155 Mulberry St., New York, NY 10013. Donations can also be made by credit card by calling the Museum at 212-965-9000.



In addition, for those who live in or near New York City, singer **Giada Valenti** is offering an **Abruzzo Earthquake Benefit Concert**, May 3, at 5:00 pm at the Little Theatre of St. John's University in Queens. The Consul General of Italy, Mr. Francesco Talo, will be present and it is expected that he will use this opportunity to give an update on the situation in the area where the earthquake struck. For this Benefit Concert, Giada will perform her new show "Tribute To Love" which will take listeners on virtual trip to the most romantic places in the world, performing some of the most beautiful love songs from the Italian, British and American Songbook. Tickets are \$20, with premium seating tickets (including a reception after the show) at \$35. For tickets, visit <<[www.giadavalenti.com](http://www.giadavalenti.com)>> or <<[www.theatermania.com](http://www.theatermania.com)>> or call Perla Entertainment 347-934-3219. This concert is organized in cooperation with the Italian Heritage & Culture Committee - NY, Inc. and the Italian Culture Center of St. John's University.

## Recently-Published Books

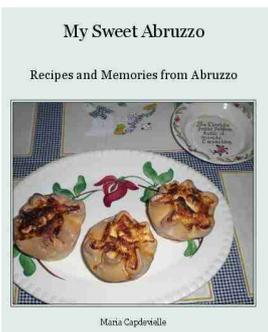
The Journey of the Italians in America by Vincenza Scarpaci is a photographic history of the Italian American experience. The author takes a photographic approach towards unraveling the history and legacy of Italians and their presence in America. Examining more than four hundred unique photographs of Italian families, settlements, businesses, and celebrities, Scarpaci celebrates the ways in which this ethnic group has influenced many aspects of American life, including arts, agriculture, industry, religion, cuisine, sports, and politics. Beginning with the first major wave of immigration in the 1870s, this work illustrates how the immigrants and their descendants faced the hardships, disappointments, achievements, and successes of this ongoing experience. Photographs from public and private collections portray this colorful ethnic group in settings from the crowded streets of Naples to crowded ships bound for America, to Californian farmers and family celebrations in New York.



Vincenza Scarpaci received her Ph.D. in history from Rutgers University in 1972. Her work has appeared in Italian and American magazines, scholarly journals, and other publications throughout the world. [\$35.00; 256 pages with 400 b/w and color photos] For more information or to order, contact Katie Szadziewicz at <<[katie@pelicanpub.com](mailto:katie@pelicanpub.com)>>.

Tebaldi: The Voice of an Angel by Carlamaria Casanova is an authorized biography, newly expanded by translator Connie Mandracchia DeCaro, who was Renata Tebaldi's lifelong friend. The great opera singer overcame polio and was discovered by Toscanini who called her *voce d'angelo* (angel voice). She debuted at the Met in 1955, where she sang some 270 times. In all, Tebaldi knew 1,048 operas and gave 1,262 performances before retiring in 1976. She died in 2004 at age 82. Included are 84 pages of photos and a CD of Tebaldi singing her most popular Italian arias. [\$39.95; hardcover; 265 pages] The book is available at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and local bookstores.

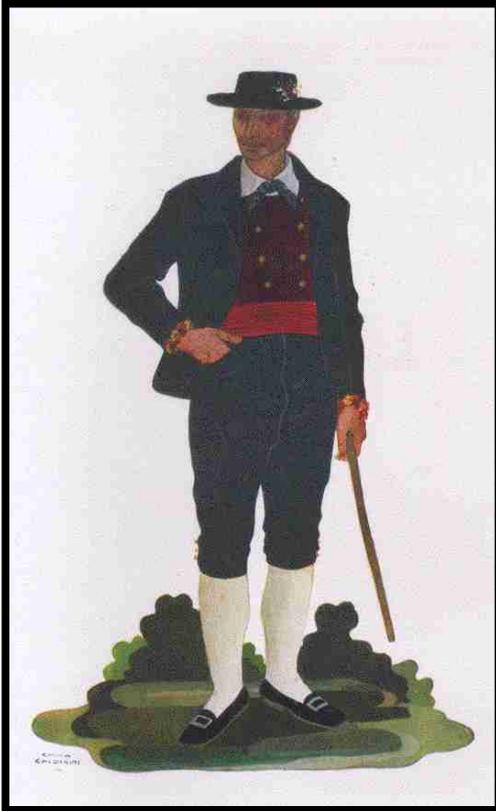
Especially timely after the recent earthquake in the Abruzzo is The Great Earthquake by Salvatore LaGumina. In 1908, an earthquake and tidal wave struck Sicily and Calabria. In Messina, 15,000 of the city's 150,000 people survived. In Reggio Calabria, a city of 50,000, only 10,000 survived. President Theodore Roosevelt immediately sent U.S. Navy ships that brought food, water, medicine and supplies to the victims. This American rescue effort is central to historian LaGumina's vivid account of the greatest natural disaster the world had ever known. The book also features stunning "before and after" photos of the two cities. [\$29.00; paperback; 248 pages] The book is available at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).



Maria Capdevielle, a pastry chef and instructor from Abruzzo, just published My Sweet Abruzzo cookbook. The book is about the recipes and memories of the Italian pastries, breads and confections she enjoyed in every celebration (from Christmas to Weddings) of her childhood, which she then tried to recreate in her own kitchen to share with her sons and to anyone passionate about Italian cuisine. Like a meal at an Italian-American restaurant, most Italian cookbooks stop at tiramisù, biscotti and gelato. This is where My Sweet Abruzzo begins, a place where every pastry, bread, and confection has a name, or an identity inseparable from local celebrations. [\$41.95 softcover, \$54.95 hardcover; 130 pages] Learn more about the book and how to order it by visiting <<<http://www.blurb.com/bookstore/invited/311860/447e2f3c4b0523925f3e6e734b052864>>>.

## 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 Campania.



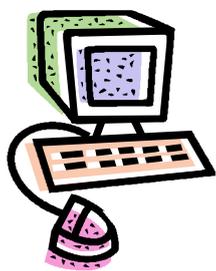
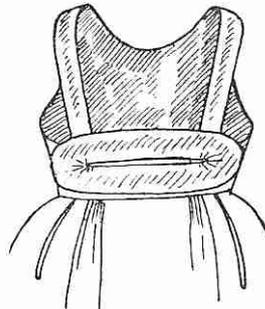
### Costume festivo di Pontelandolfo: Holiday outfit from Pontelandolfo

Shirt of coarse handwoven fabric. Suit of coarse blue cloth. Jacket of simple cut. Pants to the knees. At the wrist a bracelet of colored knit wool. At the waist is bound an ribbon of colored (red) cotton. The hat is of sturdy felt, decorated with fake flowers.

### Donna di Cusano Mutri: Woman from Cusano Mutri

Linen blouse with tiny pleats on the front bodice with a ruffled frill at the neck. Sleeves reach to the wrist and are embroidered with small designs as are the shoulders. Dress of heavy brown wool of which the skirt, with thick pleats at the waist, is open on the sides and tied there. It is also tied to a corset of the same material with suspenders of gold lace (see detail). The same gold lace adorns the lining of the corset and the openings on the sides. The skirt is decorated at the bottom with red stripes which are sewn on. A scarf with silk fringe crosses in front at the chest. The apron is of woven fabric with floral ribbons sewn on the bottom. White knit stocking in openwork design. Low leather shoes. On the head, a *tovaglia* (folded head covering) of linen decorated with brown ribbons with white embroidery and short fringe.

Detail of woman's dress:



## On The Web

Folk troupes looking to purchase authentic *tamburelli* may want to check out the following two websites, both from the area of Salento in Puglia, the "heel of the boot." If you have the chance, you should consider visiting the Salento area in late summer when they hold the *Notte della Taranta* festival. It features the folklorized revival of *pizzica*.

Biagio Panico makes *tamburi* for many well known *pizzica* groups. There are many choices of tambourines of all sizes, made of wood, with drum heads of leather, goat or kid skin. The site also sells the *cupa cupa*, hand drums, and castanets, as well as CDs, videos/DVDs, and books on the subjects of folk instruments and folk dance, especially the *pizzica*. <<<http://www.iltamburello.com/>>>

*Bottega del Tamburello di Torrepaduli* sells a colorful variety of tambourines goatskin drum heads and with one, two, or three rows of metal jingles. Also available at this site are the *tammorra* (hand drum with no jingles) and wooden castanets. <<<http://www.iltamburelloдитorrepaduli.it/catalogo.htm>>>

The Italian American Museum, located in the heart of New York's *Little Italy*, has changed locations to 155 Mulberry Street at the corner of Grand. The museum purchased three buildings, including *Banca Stabile*. Established in 1885 by Francesco Rosario Stabile, and preserved by the Stabile family, the historic bank now serves as the cornerstone for the museum. Admission is free. Please visit <<[www.italianamericanmuseum.org/](http://www.italianamericanmuseum.org/)>>.

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**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, and give the full name and address to whom the announcement is to be sent. The contributor should also provide his/her own 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:

- |                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
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| Mark DeSanctis                  | Victor Peck      |
| Professor/Cav. Philip J. DiNovo | Paul Torna       |
- National Italian American Foundation*

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 COSTUMES  
 AND  
 CUSTOMS OF ITALY**

by Elba Farabegoli Gurzau

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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.

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