



tradizioni

NEWSLETTER OF THE ITALIAN FOLK ART FEDERATION OF AMERICA

Editor: Jackie Capurro

IFafa Website: www.italianfolkartfederation.org/

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No. 1

Letter From the President

Dear Members,

As we quickly move through yet another year, I look back on 2008 and 2009 and think about the difficult position our organization was in financially. Between the economic downturn – which ultimately affected such critical areas as membership renewal, charitable donations, and overall attendance to our annual conferences – along with the purchase of our new expansive website, IFafa's available funds were at one of their lowest points in all my years with the organization.

Since that time, however, we've managed to make a strong recovery, and have once again secured our stability and assured a long-term position for our financial future. We had a tremendously successful membership drive for 2010, with almost all individuals renewing their current membership, as well as several new individuals joining for the very first time. First-time membership this year also included a new performing group out of Fitchburg, WI. The revived group, Italian Folk Dancers of Madison, is now headed up by Raul DeLuna, whose email is listed on our website. Please help me in welcoming them to IFafa.

With the above in mind, I continue to see 2010 as a rebuilding year. Our goal is to build upon our current status as the authority in Italian Folk Arts, by presenting some new publications via our website. The first is going to be a new IFafa cookbook, where each member will have the opportunity to provide his or her favorite recipe and story. The second publication will be a new Italian folk arts book, similar to Elba's book, but with a new set of dances and other new informative pieces. Along with the publications, we plan to promote other various items that will ultimately help provide our knowledge of Italian folk arts to those interested in the Italian-American community.

The most important detail of our rebuilding, however, is the fact that we will not be hosting an annual conference this year. Taking into account the instability of our finances last year, as well as the uncertainty of what 2010 would bring, the Board of Directors made the executive decision to postpone this year's conference. The decision was difficult, but at the end of the day, the fiscally responsible thing to do.

Plans for our 2011 conference – to be held in Hartford, CT – are already well underway. Paolina Kavanagh and the host group *Cuor d'Italia* are very enthusiastic, and I have nothing but the highest confidence that they will present a spectacular conference. There's certainly a lot more information on this topic to follow in the very near future. As always, continue to check the website for up-to-date details.

Finally, some very bittersweet news – *I Gagliardi Italiani* of Canton, OH, a long-time member group, has recently notified IFafa that they have decided to disband. The group notes shrinking membership as the main cause. I wanted to share a small portion of the letter we received from Alice Cleary, President of *I Gagliardi Italiani*:

".....So after 36 years, we have dissolved. Our final funds have been divided in half to donate to St. Anthony Parish and IFafa. Enclosed please find a check for \$370.27, our donation to IFafa. We put no conditions on how it should be used.

I have enjoyed all of the trips and activities we have shared in IFafa. Glad to see the website looking so good!

Most Sincerely,

Alice M. Cleary, President"

This is very sad news indeed. Yet another group, once extremely strong and filled with vivacity, has been forced to disband due to a general lack of interest in keeping our Italian traditions alive through music, dance, song, and costume.

Continued on page 2

READERS OF TRADIZIONI: THIS WILL BE OUR FINAL HARD COPY

Beginning with our next issue later this year, *Tradizioni* will only be published on-line and available to all members on the members-only pages of our IFafa website. We will NOT be bulk-printing the newsletter on paper or mailing it out. This will allow us to save on publishing costs, paper, and postage. Our thanks go out to Wayne and Loretta Adelsberger for their many years of assistance in printing, collating, addressing, and mailing out *Tradizioni* in the past!

IMPORTANT NOTE: For those of you who do NOT have computer access, we will still print any necessary individual copies and mail them to you, but only if you contact us to tell us of your need. If you need hard copies of future issues of *Tradizioni* mailed to you, please phone Jackie at 408-799-4035 or send her a note at 2512 Glen Hastings Court, San Jose, CA 95148. Be sure to include your complete and up-to-date mailing address.

This issue, several back-issues, and all future issues will now be found on the IFafa website in the Resource Library which is in the drop-down menu in the Members-Only section.

President's Letter, continued from page 1

... I'm sure I speak for the entire membership when I say Thank you, members of *I Gagliardi Italiani*, for working so hard over the past 36 years to keep our heritage alive here in America. Your tireless efforts are much appreciated, as well as your extremely generous and thoughtful donation towards the work of IFAFA. It will be used to produce informative publications on how to get children involved in their heritage at an early age, the key to keeping interest alive in the future.

If anyone has any suggestions or comments for IFAFA, please don't hesitate to contact me directly via email or through the website. Please also contact Jackie Capurro, editor of the newsletter and overall workhorse for IFAFA, if you have any articles or contributions you'd like to make to *Tradizioni* or to the website itself.

I hope you're all having a wonderful year so far, and I look forward to speaking with all of you again in the near future!

Sincerely,

Mark DeSanctis

President, Italian Folk Art Federation of America

Genealogy: Ellis Island Holds Clues to Your Family History

In the five years (and over nine billion hits!) since <<www.ellisland.org>> first enabled free online access to passenger arrival records, The Statue of Liberty – Ellis Island Foundation (SOLEIF) has responded to millions of visitor queries regarding immigrant arrivals through the Port of New York. This article is designed to share the experience with you and your family. By using the tips and techniques described, it is hoped that you will find even the most elusive Ellis Island arrivals. You can also visit the website to download free genealogy charts and forms, learn the basics of family history research in the Genealogy Learning Center, or review advanced search tips.

Ellis Island passenger arrival records are among the most valuable family history documents for tens of millions of Americans tracing their ethnic heritage. For many, these historic documents contain seemingly ordinary facts which now provide invaluable clues about the extraordinary events in the lives of our immigrant ancestors.

Even the most diligent family history detective hits a dead end sooner or later. Often, the difference between being stuck there and moving forward lies with the siblings of your hidden ancestor. If the person for whom you are searching had brothers or sisters, chances are good that one or more of these siblings were also immigrants.

If you have not been successful locating an ancestor in the SOLEIF database of Ellis Island passenger arrivals <<www.ellisland.org>>, but still believe that the Port of New York was his or her initial destination in America, the following strategy may be a viable alternative.

To begin, look at your family records or speak with other members of your family – especially cousins – to map out the names of your great aunts and uncles. Once you have this information at hand, use the *Passenger Search* function, providing the surname and first initial for one of these siblings. If you're researching an uncommon surname, you may be able to search using just surname and then scan the resulting list for possible matches to names of siblings on your list. For more common surnames, the *Advanced Search* capabilities may help filter your results to a more manageable number for closer inspection.

Once you have identified one or more possible matches, you should carefully review the digital image of the original passenger manifest on the line specified. If you're lucky, this great aunt or uncle was traveling with other members of the family – maybe even your direct-line ancestor. Some names are very difficult to read on the original manifests, even when you know what you're looking for.

Even if you don't strike genealogical gold on your first try, keep looking at these manifests. Pay particular attention to the passenger's final destination in America as well as the other names also appearing on that manifest. Sometimes even the smallest clue can pave the way to solving this passenger arrival mystery.

Here's a list of what is available to you on <<www.ellisland.org>>:

- Ships' passenger records for arrivals through the Port of New York and Ellis Island from 1892 to 1924
- Over 3.5 million actual manifest pages
- Access to pictures of over 800 ships, including details about the vessel's history
- Opportunity to purchase archival-quality reproductions of ship manifests, passenger records, and ship pictures
- Expanded and improved search capabilities employing the SOUNDEX System
- Genealogy Learning Center which provides "how-to" articles, useful searching tips, and free downloadable genealogy charts and forms
- Famous Arrivals Page which links users to immigration information of famous personalities, detailed history on Ellis Island, historic photos, and information on planning a visit to the Ellis Island Immigration Museum

SOLEIF (Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island Foundation) <<www.ellisland.org>>

Anyone Live Near or Traveling in Shelburne, Vermont?

An author from Rome, Ermanno Salvatore, is writing a biography about Eliodoro Patete, a sculptor born in Vastogirardi (Molise) in 1874. Patete emigrated to the United States in 1909, working in the mines of West Virginia while continuing his passion for sculpting. In 1938, he was entered in the Index of American Folk Artists. His most famous work is *The Seated Liberty* which is now displayed in the Museum of Shelburne in Vermont.

Salvatore is asking for help. He would love to include a photograph of Patete's *The Seated Liberty* in his book, but cannot afford to visit the United States simply for this one photo. He wrote to us asking if anyone who lives near Shelburne, VT, would be willing to take a picture of the statue and email it to him. If you can help, please send a photo to him at <<ermanno.salvatore@fastwebnet.it>>.

DisCanto Touring in U.S. in October

DisCanto, a traditional Abruzzese music group from Italy, is available for performances in the United States in October, 2010! This will be their fifth tour in the States. Previous tours included shows in Philadelphia (Philadelphia Museum of Art and World Cafe Live), Pittsburgh, New York, and Michigan.

DisCanto (www.discanto.net) brings you to another place and time through the traditional music from the region of Abruzzo: *saltarelli*, original songs written in Abruzzese dialect, and a variety of songs from southern Italy. *DisCanto* integrates the lyrics and expressions of the vocal traditions with the sounds of instruments such as the guitar, *bouzouki*, violin, cello, accordion, and percussion. Not to be missed is the *zampogna* (Italian bagpipe) played by Antonello Di Matteo.

If you would like to book *DisCanto* for a festival, event, or a special dinner, please email Michele Avolio at <<info@discanto.net>>.

You can also connect with *DisCanto* on Facebook, MySpace, or YouTube and follow their schedule of upcoming performances. If you live near Philadelphia and want to connect with local IFAFA members to attend *DisCanto* concerts, contact Clio Mallin (*Vivaci Folk Dance Troupe*) at <<cmallin@yahoo.com>>.



Book on Oral History

Luisa Del Giudice, an IFAFA member, is editor and contributor of the book, Oral History, Oral Culture, and Italian Americans, containing selected essays from the 38th Annual Conference of the American Italian Historical Association, "Speaking Memory: Oral History, Oral Culture and Italians in America," Los Angeles, November 3-6, 2005. AIHA is devoted to the interdisciplinary scholarly study of the culture, literature, history, sociology, psychology, and politics of Italians in America. (For more information, see <<www.AIHAweb.org>>.)

This book introduces readers to a wide range of interpretations that take oral history and folklore as the premise with a focus on Italian and Italian-American culture in disciplines such as history, ethnography, memoir, art, and music. It is 288 pages in length and is available for \$80.00 from Palgrave MacMillan Press.

Contributors are Luisa Del Giudice, Alessandro Portelli, Stefano Luconi, Ernesto R. Milani, Marie Saccomando Coppola, B. Amore, Christine F. Zinni, John T. La Barbera, Roberto Catalano and Enzo Fina, Augusto Ferraiuolo, Michael Di Virgilio, Sabina Magliocco, Joanna Clapps Herman, and Alessandra Belloni.

For more information about the book, contact Luisa:

Luisa Del Giudice, Ph.D.
P.O. Box 241553
Los Angeles, CA 90024-1553
Tel/Fax: (310) 474-1698
E-mail: luisadg@humnet.ucla.edu

Luisa also has her first live, streamed talk "Gastronomic Utopias" in New York's Calandra Institute's conference on "*Terre Promesse / Promised Lands*." It can now be found online at: <<http://www.livestream.com/italics/video?clipId=pla_3eb1edfa-32c5-4923-8377-804a66390c3f>>.

Language and Folk Dance Lessons in Italy

The *Istituto Dante Alighieri Rimini* specializes in the organization of Italian language courses for foreigners in Rimini (Emilia Romagna region, Italy). They also have strong relationships with a local folk dance school which is available to organize local folk dance classes and competitions.

If your group is interested in organizing a study-abroad/travel program, with a folk dance component, please contact:

Stefania Casadei, Istituto Dante Alighieri Rimini
Via della Repubblica 100
47923 Rimini (RN) – Italy
email: italiano@corsirimini.it
www.corsirimini.it
cell: +39 339 1470907

This topic is shared as an information item only; IFAFA is not connected with this school in any way, makes no recommendations, and is not responsible for its activities.

Books by and about Italian-Americans

Sometimes I Dream in Italian by Rita Cirese

Angel and Lina Lupo rebel against the rigid Old World values of their immigrant Italian parents as they seek their own road to happiness and success in this series of inter-connected short stories about second-generation immigrant children and their conflicts. In her honest, vivid and often funny description of life in a traditional, working-class Italian family, Cirese examines what it means to be an Italian-American woman in America. (209 pages, Delacorte Press)

The Stonecutter's Aria by Carol Faenz

The true story of Aristide Giovannoni, a stone carver from Carrara with a passion for opera, is the basis for this novel which, like an opera, is divided into three acts that span over 100 years. It begins with Aristide's 30-day crossing to America in the early 1900s on a ship where "disease, exhaustion and fear clung to us like our wrinkled and filthy clothes," and ends in the present with his great-granddaughter, the author of the novel. (314 pages, Aperto Books. To order: 800-345-6665)

-- Reviews by Kylie Cafiero
in OSIA's magazine *Italian America*

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 Sardegna.



LEFT: Militia Man from Cagliari

Shirt of homespun cloth, with a small stand-up collar that closes at the throat by means of two beautiful filigree buttons of gold and silver. The vest of scarlet *orbace* (rough woolen cloth) is trimmed with a large black stripe on which are arranged a line of more lovely filigree buttons. A type of short “skirt” of black *orbace* falls from the belt to halfway down the hip; it is tightly pleated at the waist and closed with a highly ornamented leather belt, clasped with a metal buckle. The pants come out from under the “skirt;” they’re of white fabric, rather full and gathered within the gaiters (leg coverings). The gaiters are of the same *orbace* as the “skirt” and cover the tops of the shoes, which are of common make, made with strong leather. On the head, a long beret (or stocking cap) of red *orbace*.



RIGHT: Woman from Nuoro

Blouse of homespun cloth, embellished with wide pleats on the chest. It has a line of lace at the collar and closes with two large filigree buttons. The sleeves are very full and end in deep cuffs. The bodice, decorated with lovely silk ribbon, is very loose and gathered at the waist. It has sleeves that open to show the blouse underneath and button at the wrist with large filigree buttons. The full skirt is of deep red *orbace*, with another border of a brighter color. The apron, when there is one, is generally of black *orbace* embroidered in silk at the bottom, top, and sides. White knit stockings. Leather shoes. On the head, a wool or cotton kerchief. Rings of gold and silver on the fingers.

Vivaci Hosts Traditional Dance Workshop

Vivaci folk dance troupe of Philadelphia hosted a dance workshop on Saturday, April 10, 2010, with traditional Italian dance experts Celeste DiPietropaolo and Marie DiCocco. The event brought together over 40 people to learn the history and dances of Italy, including the Monferrina (from Emilia-Romagna), Ballo Sardo (from Sardegna), Tarantella Montemaranesa (from Campania), Saltarello Teramano (from Abruzzo), and the Spallata (from the Sannio area).

We traveled from the north to the south and to the island of Sardegna in the course of an afternoon, focusing on the different styles of dance for each. “One of the main differences between the two,” said Celeste, “is that in the North, *la musica commanda* –the music leads the dancers and helps them know which steps come next. In the South, *i ballerini commandano* –the dancers lead the changes in steps while keeping the rhythm of the musicians. As a generalization, northern dancers tend to be joiners: they like to dance (and sing) in groups, and there is cooperation and harmony between them. In the south of Italy, however, the style is more individualistic and improvised.”

After the workshop, we all joined together for a veritable Italian feast of anti-pasti, eggplant parmiggiano, porchetta, broccoli rabe, escarole, beans, pasta, and delicious homemade Italian desserts. *Zampognaro* (Italian bagpiper) Charlie Rutan and several talented musicians (including Celeste and Marie) playing the organetto and accordion joined us for an impromptu jam session during the evening *fiesta*. Celeste and Marie also shared an incredible twenty-five-year collection of video field recordings of community and family festivals and rituals in Italy.



VIVACI funded this workshop through group funds and is especially grateful for financial support from the Order Sons of Italy in America, Ivy Ridge Lodge #251, and Holy Child Catholic School in Manayunk for providing the space

Our group enjoys new learning experiences, cooking for group gatherings, and all the *divertimento* (fun) we have together while cultivating Italian cultural and folk traditions.

--Clio Mallin, Vivaci

David Marker Debuts Film on Italian Folk Music

Native Kansas City filmmaker, David Marker, premiered his feature-length documentary about Italian folk music at the 2010 Kansas City Film Fest. The film, entitled *Zampogna: The Soul of Southern Italy*, is a cultural odyssey that transports the viewers into the hidden cultures of Italy and redefines the viewers' perception of just what "Italy" means to them. Primarily focusing on the *zampogna*, the indigenous Southern Italian bagpipe, the film shows how this instrument and music express the vivaciousness and creativity of the Southern Italian people while exposing the economic and cultural changes that are threatening this ancient tradition's very existence.

Told in a first person perspective, the film brings the audience into the world of Marker's quirky Italian relatives and shares his unique story of Italian-American identity and reconnection with his cultural past. Spending time with shepherds, poets, farmers and musicians, the filmmaker begins to understand just how this music and culture are interconnected and why its survival is so important to Italian identity.



As an Italian American and a player of the *zampogna* himself, the filmmaker is in a unique position to bridge the gap between the new and old world. To view a trailer of the film on youtube, you can visit: <<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3pa4W7iA5So>>>.

This past October, David Marker attended the 2009 IFAFA conference and gave workshop demonstrations on both the *zampogna* and the *organetto*, the Italian folk accordion. He will also be playing traditional Italian folk music this summer at the Des Moines and Kansas City Italian Festivals.

Zampogna: the Soul of Southern Italy played at the Kansas City Film Fest on April 16, 2010. The film will also be shown September 29, 2010, in New York City at the John D. Calandra Institute, as well as in Washington, DC, at the World Music and Independent Film Festival this August.

David Marker, <<Dmarker21@gmail.com>>, 913-486-9369

Rockford Hosts Top Chef's Fabio Viviani

On March 11, 2010, Fabio Viviani of the Bravo network TV show *Top Chef* was in Rockford, IL, for *What's Cooking with Fabio?* at the Coronado Performing Arts Center. The event was presented by the Rockford Register Star, where IFAFA Member Bea Giammarese Ricotta is a publisher's assistant who helped organize the event. The chef prepared a healthful meal, talked about cooking and answered questions. The appearance also kicked off the Register Star's *The 'H' Word* online cooking show, coming to <<healthyrockford.com>>.



Viviani was executive chef of Cafe Firenze in Moorpark, CA, and in October opened Firenze Osteria in North Hollywood. His *Cafe Firenze Cookbook: Mangia e Bevi*, co-authored with business partner and friend Jacopo Falleni, is out now, and he is set to star in new Bravo reality show *A Catered Affair*. The Florence, Italy, native attended *Istituto Professionale per I Servizi Alberghieri* in Florence, focusing on advanced Tuscan and regional cooking. He describes his style of cooking as "northern Italian comfort-styled foods."

Rockford's *Amici Italiani* Dance Troupe performed as the "opening number" for Fabio.

Butternut Squash Casserole

Carlo Biondolillo of the Italian Folk Dance Group of Rochester, Minnesota, shares his family recipe for winter squash.

4 pounds peeled butternut squash
4 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
few flakes of butter
2 cloves garlic



1 small onion, sliced
1 tbsp of chopped parsley
salt & pepper
bread crumbs to dust pan

2 eggs, lightly beaten
1 cup parmesan cheese
1/4 cup bread crumbs
6 slices fontina cheese

Cut the butternut squash into 1 inch cubes, drop the squash into a large pot of salted boiling water, bring back to a boil for 5 minutes drain and set aside.

Meanwhile heat 4 tbsp of extra virgin oil in a large sauce pan; add 2 cloves of garlic and the sliced onion. When golden, discard onion and garlic; add the butternut squash, the chopped parsley, salt and pepper and stir for 2-3 minutes, then remove the pan from the heat.

Once it is cool, add 2 beaten eggs with half cup of parmesan cheese and stir.

Spread out half of the butternut squash in a baking pan already buttered and dusted with bread crumbs, cover with 3 slices of fontina cheese. Sprinkle 1 tbsp of parmesan and lay down the remain squash. On top, add the other 3 slices of fontina cheese, sprinkle the remaining parmesan and at the end the bread crumbs. Finally add few flakes of butter and bake for 20-25 minutes at 420F.

HOW TO CONTACT US

IFAF A PRESIDENT: Mark DeSanctis
email: MarkDeSanctis@gmail.com
Mailing address:
1302 N. Astor Street, #6
Milwaukee, WI 53202



TRADIZIONI EDITOR: Jackie Capurro
email: viva_ifafa@hotmail.com
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 "IFAF A – Founder's Fund" and mailed to: IFAFA, c/o Treasurer, P.O. Box 3185, Fort Lee, NJ 07024.

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.

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:

Carlo Biondolillo	David Marker
Luisa DelGiudice	OSIA
Mark DeSanctis	Anthony Parente
Prof./Cav. Philip DiNovo	Bea Giammarese Ricotta
Leslie Gigliotto	Rosie Sheridan
Clio Mallin	SOLEIF

FOLK DANCES, COSTUMES AND CUSTOMS OF ITALY

by Elba Farabegoli Gurzau

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

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

Please make check or money order payable to
IFAF A and mail to:
IFAF A Treasurer
P.O. Box 3185
Fort Lee, NJ 07024.

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

You may also join online!

www.italianfolkartfederation.org/

Individual and Family Membership:

- Individual (18-60 years of age): \$24/yr
- Senior (60 and up): \$18/yr
- Family (not in perf. troupe): \$50/yr

Performance Groups:

- Groups (up to 10 members) \$100/yr
- Groups (10+ members): \$150/yr
- Contributing to the work of IFAFA
\$ _____

Name:

Address:

City:

State/Zip:

Phone:

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

IFAF A Treasurer

P.O. Box 3185

Fort Lee, NJ 07024.

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