



tradizioni

NEWSLETTER OF THE ITALIAN FOLK ART FEDERATION OF AMERICA

Editor: Jackie Capurro

IFafa Website: www.ItalianFolkArtFederation.org

VOLUME 34

2015

No. 1

IFafa Board of Directors

During the past year, the IFafa Board of Directors was reviewed and strengthened. Many names who were previously listed as Board Members had not participated in IFafa for several years, and other IFafa members were interested in representing IFafa in its work. After a process of contacting inactive members and nominating and confirming new Board Members, the following members were voted in on a conference call in September 2014. The Executive Board (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer) also serve on the general Board of Directors.

President Leslie Gigliotti (Washington, DC)

Vice-President Joyce DeLaurentis (Philadelphia, PA)

Secretary Jackie Capurro (San Jose, CA)

Treasurer Rose Giarrusso (Carnegie, PA)

Larissa Chobany (Dallas, TX/Concord, NH)

Maria Chobany (Dallas, TX)

Patricia Civitate (Des Moines, IA)

Meri DeLorenzo Howard (Las Vegas, NV)

Mark DeSanctis (Milwaukee, IL)

William Giovanetti (Sacramento, CA)

Bea Ricotta (Rockford, IL)

Stephanie Ricotta (Rockford/Chicago, IL)

Karen Rosanio (Philadelphia, PA)

Paul Torna (Philadelphia, PA)

Danita Wendorf (Milwaukee, WI)

Listen, Watch and Read Italian

Radio Arlecchino:

Learn Italian by listening to podcasts featuring Arlecchino (Harlequin) & Pulcinella (Punch) and other masks of Commedia dell' arte. Radio Arlecchino will help you learn past, present and future, one episode at a time. You can download PDF files and read along. It's learning made easy and fun for the whole family. <http://www.coerll.utexas.edu/ra/>

Rai Television:

http://www.rai.tv/dl/RaiTV/homeRaiTv.html?refresh_ce&utm_source=Winter+newsletter+2013&utm_campaign=UA-7324737-4&utm_medium=email

L'Italo-Americano Newspaper:

The Italian American Community newspaper for over 100 years. Covering Italian culture, history, traditions, language, travel, cinema, arts, sports etc. Articles in English and Italian!!! Subscribe now at <http://www.italoamericano.org/>

Latin: The Mother of Men

An old Latin proverb said, "All roads lead to Rome." That is Rome, Italy. The Latin language, history, and culture has tied together many parts of the world. Our alphabet, our political system, theater, laws, architecture, sports and even our vocabulary have a Latin foundation. Contrary to the movies, the Romans were Latin not English. Ancient Rome, its language and people all centered in central Italy. Italian-Americans are Latins; our roots are from Latium. Our Italian language is derived from Latin, and so is French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Romanian. So often we hear about Latin America, the countries in the Western Hemisphere where Spanish, Portuguese, and French are spoken. Remember that it was in Italy that Latinization began, and many of us have Roman ancestors.

What's in a name? Below are a list of some names and their meanings. These have Latin roots.

Names for girls:

Amanda – worthy of love, loveable
Amelia – industrious one
April - open (from the month)
Augusta – exalted, sacred, or sublime
Beatrice – she who blesses
Cecilia - blind
Celeste - heavenly
Charity – benevolent, charitable
Clara – bright or illustrious
Constance - constant
Diana – virgin goddess of the moon
Frances - free
Gloria - glorious
Grace - graceful
Hilary - cheerful
Marcella - warlike
Maxine – the greatest
May - great one
Norma – the model or pattern
Octavia – the eighth
Patricia – noble or well-born
Preiscilla – the ancient
Regina – queen or queenly
Renata - reborn
Rosemary – dew of the sea
Stella – the star
Sylvia – forest maiden

Names for boys:

Anthony - inestimable, beyond praise
Augustus – exalted, sacred
Benedict - blessed
Caesar – long-haired
Calvin - bald
Clarence - illustrious
Dominic – belonging to the Lord
Fabian – bean farmer
Felix - fortunate
Lawrence – the laurel
Leo – the lion
Mark – the hammer
Martin - warlike
Maurice – Moorish or dark-skinned
Nigel - dark
Oliver – the olive
Paul - little
Rufus – red-haired
Silas – man of the forest
Sol – the sun
Sylvester – forest dweller
Terrence - tender
Valentine – strong, vigorous, healthy
Vernon - flourishing
Vincent - conquering

Our first names are so important; now some of you know the meaning of your first name and that it has Latin roots. Our ancestors, the Romans, ruled most of the known world for almost 500 years and left their mark.

-- Prof/Cav Philip J. DiNovo

Buon Onomastico

In Italy, as well as in many other countries in Europe and Latin America, people celebrate the day of the year associated with one's given name. Italians call it *onomastico*.

The custom originated with the Catholic and Orthodox calendar of saints, where believers named after a particular saint would celebrate that saint's feast day.

In Italy, one's *onomastico* is seen to be almost as important as one's birthday - often people receive small gifts on their *Onomastico*.

Ninety percent of Italians are named after saints for varying reasons. Many are named this way simply due to being born on a particular saint's day, while others because of patron saint of their town. Still others are given their name because their parents have a special connection or received a grace from a specific saint.



Painting with Stone

Florence, Tuscany - Take time to visit this tiny jewel in Florence: the *Opificio delle Pietre Dure*. Literally meaning "Factory of Hard Stones", this lovely museum is an excellent antidote to "compulsory tourist sites" overload. The subject of its collection is semiprecious stone and its use in *intarsio* (inlay) for the production of all sorts of decoration.

The craft of inlay work goes back to antiquity, but it was revived on a grand scale by Ferdinando I de' Medici for the decoration of the furnishings, artworks, and architecture seen today all over Florence. In fact this Grand Ducal workshop was established to carry out the elaborate stone inlay work found in the *Cappella dei Principi* (Basilica of San Lorenzo). The art of assembling stone fragments to cover large or small surfaces, including objects, furniture or whole walls, was studied and perfected by skillful and carefully chosen artisans.



The thin layers of stone veneer were selected for color, brilliance, and opacity or translucence to create refined pictorial effects.

The museum is dedicated to the display of *intarsio* work, its history, and its many uses. Also on view are work benches and tools used in antiquity to create the pieces, as well as wall displays containing countless specimens of the stones (and their origins) used. Today the *Opificio* is a renowned institution for training and restoration of all kinds.

[Opificio delle Pietre Dure](#), Via Alfani, 78, Firenze

Many thanks to Rebecca Dominguez and Bradley Griffin for the use of their beautiful photos. Truly appreciated!

IFAFa Conference October 2-4, 2015

Workshops: The William Way Community Center 1315 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

Festa Folkloristica: DoubleTree by Hilton, Center City 237 S. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

(one block from the William Way Community Center)

We have booked a set of rooms at the Doubletree Hotel at \$209 per night plus tax for those attendees that would like to stay convenient to the William Way Center and at the same hotel where the Festa will be held. Please use this link: https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=14027587 to make arrangements or call 1-800-222-TREE and reference the Italian Folk Art Federation. Please note that reservations must be made no later than September 1 to receive this special rate. If you would like to share a room, please contact the numbers below, and *Vivaci* will assist with contacting others also seeking to share. **Please note:** Conference attendees are not required to stay at the Doubletree and may book a hotel elsewhere if preferred.

Recommended airport shuttle Lady Liberty Transportation \$10.00 one-way. <http://www.ladylibertyshuttle.com/>
(Concierge desks both at the hotel and at the airport will provide shuttle times and assistance.)

Friday

- 1:00 Olde City Walking tour (walking tour of Olde Philadelphia with two of Philadelphia's most esteemed guides)
- 3:00 pm Registration opens at the William Way Center
- 5:00 pm IFAFA Board and Executive Team meeting
- 6:00 pm IFAFA General Membership Meeting
- 7:00-10:00 pm IFAFA Reception, Members of *Vivaci* will be teaching a few simple dances, this event will be open to the public – encouraging Italian Folk Dance in the City of Philadelphia. (dances will be taught by *Vivaci*)

Saturday

Dance Room - a mix of dances will be taught varying in difficulty and region of origin

Bea Ricotta Amici Italiani (Bea Ricotta, instructor) – dance to be determined (<http://www.griaa.org/amici-italiani-adult-troupe/>)

Tradizione Vivente (Mark DeSanctis, instructor) - dance to be determined (<http://www.tradizionevivente.org>)

Cuor d'Italia, (Laura Speno, instructor) - dance to be determined

Music Room

“IFAFa Choir” - Maryann Bucci will be directing this year

“Italian Village Life through Folk Songs” presented by Tom Brunelli (Explore the richness and variety of Italian village life told through Italian folk songs, listen to the various voice intonations as folk songs unfold, practice singing, engage in an Italian village game.)

Other Workshops

“Italian National Anthem” – history and development of -Lucia C. Ederer, Vice Consolato d'Italia

“Malocchio, Healing and Italian Superstitions: Stories from Family and Friends”- Hading Liberi, Pat Spinosi & Paul Torna

“Making the Most of your Full Membership: Resources and Use of the IFAFA website - Jackie Capurro

“Make traditional Bomboniere Abruzzesi” with authentic world-renowned confetti from the city of Sulmona. – Jackie Capurro

Festa Folkloristica: dinner, performances by IFAFA member groups, live entertainment for listening and public dancing by the renowned Munier Mandolin and Guitar Society: <http://munierorchestra.org/>

Please complete one form for each person who will be attending ANY part of the conference. If more than one person is submitting a form from your group, you may total the registration fees onto one check and submit the check together with all the registration forms for your group.

Name _____ Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 EMAIL ADDRESS: _____
 Special dietary needs: _____
 Group Name (if applicable) _____

Breakfast, snacks and lunch (served at the William Way Center), plus Saturday night dinner/Festa are included in Conference registration fee!

Please check appropriate category(-ies) below and carry out the dollar amount.

Entire Conference:

IFAFa Member (adults)	\$145	_____	= \$ _____
Non-Member Adult	\$165	_____	= \$ _____
Students (through high school age)	\$120	_____	= \$ _____
Late Registration FEE – all registrants (after September 10)	\$25	_____	= \$ _____
Conference and New IFAFA membership (special deal – (\$10 off)	\$155	_____	= \$ _____
Saturday Festa Folcloristica only (for guests of IFAFA members)	\$65	_____	= \$ _____
Friday Olde Philadelphia Tour	\$10	_____	= \$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED for this participant \$			_____

Please mail forms and check **payable to IFAFA** to:
 Claire Burns, 14 Michael McCorristin RD • Hamilton SQ, NJ 08690

Questions: Email: vivaciphilly@gmail.com or call
 Ron Smith 215-746-4709 or Carol Purfield 215-627-4119

“Parliamo Italiano” – in Las Vegas with Meri DiLorenzo Howard

I have been busy in Las Vegas. The meetup group that I started 5 ½ years ago, *Parliamo Italiano*, has grown from 4-5 of us getting together each week to speak Italian to about 240 members. We still get together weekly but there are now usually 15-20 of us in a bigger venue.

We also meet at a local restaurant every other Tuesday evening to play Italian music. I have taught many people the traditional songs that I have learned over the years. We also perform locally for different functions.

One of the local libraries sponsors us in an Italian Cultural Evening the first Thursday of every month to present a talk on some aspect of Italian Culture. We usually get between 60 to 100 people at each presentation. January’s presentation will be on Italian fashion by a fashion designer who has worked in Milan, worked with Oscar de la Renta, and designs for Hollywood stars.

In the past we have had presentations on the history of Italian Americans in Las Vegas, an Italian holiday meal, places in Florence represented in Dante’s *Inferno* and Dan Brown’s *Inferno*, the Jews of Pitigliano, the History of the *Pizzica Tarantata*, the *Gigli di Nola*, and other Italian festivals to name a few.

Future presentations will include the trial of Galileo, Fellini’s contribution to cinema, and a tour of Italian art masterpieces.

Happy New Year to All of You!

-- Meri DeLorenzo Howard



corso di cucina per bambini

Children's Cooking Class - ICC

Does your child or grandchild have an inner chef just waiting to emerge? Do they watch you in the kitchen and express a longing to learn and to help you cook & bake? If so, this is the class for them!



August 22, 2015 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

The children will learn how to make their own pizza dough from scratch, and top that pizza with fresh ingredients that they prep themselves. We may include pizza dough tossing just for fun.

Pizza from Scratch



October 17, 2015 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

After all of the prep work is complete, and they have a beautiful sauce simmering on the stove, students will have the opportunity to knead the pasta dough and use the pasta-cutting machine. The instructor and chaperones will help them cook the fresh pasta.

Pasta from Scratch

Freshest possible ingredients - from scratch cooking - talented teachers -
1-2 friendly chaperones per table to assist and prevent injuries -
fun and easy lessons - hands-on learning -
children will get their hands dusty with flour and sticky with dough!

Enjoy lunch together. As parents arrive to pick up after class, they are invited to sit with their children and dine on the meals lovingly created by them. And the children do the serving! (One parent per registered child.)

Italian Community Center

631 E. CHICAGO ST.
MILWAUKEE, WI 53202
414-223-2180



Each Class: \$20 - Non-Member
\$15 - Parent or
Grandparent is ICC Member

BEST DEAL: Set of 2 Classes
\$35 - Non-Member
\$25 - Parent or
Grandparent is ICC Member

Call ICC to Register & Pay by Credit Card.

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 a costume from the region of *Veneto-Alto Adige*.



Countrywoman of Sarentino

Vest and skirt of heavy, sturdy wool, almost covered by the cotton apron of varied designs. The printed cotton scarf crosses the chest and is tucked into the waistband of the skirt. The sturdy felt hat, decorated with thin cords and silk ribbons, is worn over the hair which is parted at the forehead and gathered in braids that encircle the head, held in place with tortoise-shell combs. Knit stockings, shoes of heavy leather. Gold hoop earrings, smooth or faceted.

The Italians Are Coming!

That was the headline on a Facebook posting of *Le Petit Pas*. It was to publicize the upcoming spring gala which their ballet studio was sponsoring to show there was to be a Hungarian–Italian connection.

The owner of the ballet studio is Alexandra Lengyel, classically trained in her native Budapest, Hungary. She and her mother Eleonora Fejes have launched an effort to highlight the Hungarian culture by associating with the Bay Area groups of clubs and dancers. They did this first with an all-Hungarian Gala in January. Then, by reaching out to other ethnic and national troupes, they propose to engender a cultural exchange right here in Northern California. A real multi-cultural celebration!

The Hungarian-Italian connection began in February when *Balliamo* was invited to perform with them in a dance concert on April 4 at the Vacaville Performing Arts Center. We accepted with pleasure, as we also wanted to support cooperative relations with other national groups. And we were honored to be their first guests.

Both Italian and Hungarian folk dances made up the first act. *Balliamo* and two dancers from *Eszterlanc* in the San Francisco Bay Area alternated dances, with a marked contrast in styles. We did five of our best dances, while scenes from the areas of the dances were projected on the rear wall of the stage. The second act featured character and classical ballet solos. These were performed by *Le Petit Pas* studio students, along with two members of the Sacramento Ballet, who danced the *White Swan* pas de deux among other duets.

For all of us in *Balliamo*, this co-cultural event was unique and exciting. We stood in the wings, waited for our cues, and performed during the first half. Then during intermission we went out to sit in the audience to view the ballet dancers. At the finale, we had to scurry backstage to line up with the entire cast in a series of bows, after which each dancer was presented with a floral bouquet.

We had a taste of what being in a professional dance troupe might be like: to dance in a modern performing arts center on a large indoor stage, with theatrical lighting, a stage manager, and dressing rooms. What a heady experience!

For more information, see: Facebook: Hungarian Connection Spring Gala, and Facebook: *Le Petit Pas*.

-- Doris Beckert, *Balliamo*, Sacramento, CA

HOW TO CONTACT US

IFAF A PRESIDENT

Leslie Gigliotti

Email: lesliegigliotti@gmail.com



TRADIZIONI EDITOR

Jackie Capurro

Email: viva_ifafa@hotmail.com

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, 103 Greenbrier Drive, Carnegie, PA 15106.

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.

FOLK DANCES, COSTUMES AND CUSTOMS OF ITALY

by Elba Farabegoli Gurzau

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

Price: \$25.00 plus \$3.95 for handling and postage.

Be sure to specify CD or cassette.

Please make check or money order
payable to IFAFA and mail to:

IFAF A Treasurer
103 Greenbrier Drive
Carnegie, PA 15106

Contributors to this Issue of Tradizioni

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

Doris Beckert

Prof/Cav Philip J. DiNovo

Meri DeLorenzo Howard

Carol Purfield

Ron Smith

ItalianNotebook.com

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!

<http://www.italianfolkartfederation.org/EN/Membership.asp>

\$25 Extended Membership

\$22 Extended Membership (under 18 or over 65)

\$15 Basic Membership

\$12 Basic membership (under 18 or over 65)

Contributing to the work of IFAFA: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Contributions are tax-deductible. Make checks payable to IFAFA Mail to:
IFAF A Treasurer, 103 Greenbrier Drive, Carnegie, PA 15106