

# La Voce Italiana

## THE ITALIAN VOICE



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The United Italian Society



CINCINNATI, OHIO

### Second CincItalia Festival Sometimes Wet, but Still Successful

by Joe Mastruserio

CincItalia, the second annual Cincinnati Italian Festival, was held the weekend of May 13-15 in Cheviot. People from all areas of town converged on Harvest Home Park for three days of Italian food, wine, music and culture.

As with the inaugural festival in 2010, Mother Nature didn't always cooperate. A large thunderstorm moved through on Friday afternoon, threatening to ruin the adults-only opening night. Heavy rain and hail drenched the workers making the last minute preparations, but it left as quickly as it came and the festival opened for business, freshly bathed and ready to please. The ladies of La Societa di Fuscaldese Femminile were an immediate hit with their bakery booth. The busy booth was running smoothly and serving many varieties of delicious homemade Italian cookies and cannoli that were filled fresh when ordered. Their booth was a popular spot all weekend.

With the rain gone, festival goers were able to enjoy the evening with a wide variety of food and drink. There were food booths from Pompilio's, Gabby's Cafe, LaRosa's, Noce's Pizzeria, and Dolce Vita Gelato. In addition to the professionals, patrons were able to enjoy authentic Italian fare prepared by the two church groups. The cheerful group from San Antonio Italian Church satisfied many with their famous bruschetta while St. Catharine workers served up sizzling homemade Italian sausage in the busy grill booth, fried ravioli and fried Oreos at their fry booth, and CincItalia brand pasta sauces over penne with sausage at the St. C "Pastapalooza" booth where diners could pick up a jar of their favorite sauce to take home.

Holy Chow cookbook author Giovanna Delli Carpini Trimpe took to the cooking demonstration stage



Ladies from San Antonio take to the street to promote their bruschetta at CincItalia 2011.

to share from her book. The evening "nightcap" was a very entertaining Italian cocktail mixing demonstration by Chris Wyllie of the Cincinnati Bartending School. Friday broke all previous records as the dry crowd was able to party while the Remains played rock and pop classics until midnight.

Saturday arrived with more bad weather. A steady rain fell well into the afternoon, yet CincItalia dodged a bullet as the showers subsided shortly after the festival opened. The crowd enjoyed music from singer Michael Sutherland, the Cincinnati Opera, and a swing band from Pittsburgh, Sal Ventura & Dr. Zoot. But the main event of the evening was the cooking demonstration by Mark and Buddy LaRosa. After being introduced by comedian Steve Caminiti, Mark expertly prepared a variety of LaRosa's signature sandwiches for the packed house while Buddy told stories, answered questions and worked the crowd as only Buddy can—shaking hands and posing for pictures until well after the demonstration had ended.

CincItalia's luck with the weather ran out on Sunday. A steady drizzle and temperatures in the 50s put a damper on the festivities, but those who braved the elements had a great time. Early in the day the rain let up just enough for the religious procession to take place. When the Ave Maria was played over the loudspeakers, the crowd quieted and watched the procession approach. UIS Member Gary Westerbeck and the Knights of Columbus Honor Guard led the way, followed by children who had recently made their First Communion at St. Catharine's. Girls in their white dresses dropped rose petals as they preceded the statue of the Blessed Mother that was brought from San Antonio Italian Church. It was carried on a new mahogany litter by the UIS members Phil Sabatelli, Bill Milazzo and Mario Onorini with CincItalia committee member John Reilly. San Antonio parishioners and members from various Italian societies followed, wearing sashes and carrying society banners. The statue was brought to the front of the stage and the event was put in perspective with readings from the children and St. Catharine pastor, Fr. Anthony Dattilo. Many commented that it was nice to see faith not forgotten at a church-sponsored festival.

After more smooth sounds from Michael Sutherland and a messy spaghetti eating contest, Ray Massa and the Eurorhythms entertained the crowd with an assortment of Italian favorites. Ladies grabbed their umbrellas and danced in the rain while others took refuge in the Heritage Center where the goodwill ambassadors of the United Italian Society sold Italian herbs and helped people mark their hometown on a large map of Italy while author Pam Ciafardini-Casebolt autographed copies of *h Italians of Greater Cincinnati*. Nearby was the beautifully decorated Italian travel booth staffed by travel expert Paola Girelli-Harding who handed out brochures and plenty of firsthand advice all weekend. The crowd also learned the secrets of making an award-winning dish, Chicken San Lucia, from Pompilio's owner Frank Mazzei.

The weather may have ended the festival on a down note, but CincItalia was still able to entertain thousands of people, promote the Italian culture, and help numerous worthy causes. The success of CincItalia has been a true group effort. St. Catharine's provides the location, but members of the Cincinnati Italian community have made many wonderful and welcome contributions that have given the festival its authentic flavor and helped create an event that hopes to continue to grow and be a source of pride for all involved.



Bill Milazzo, Phil Sabatelli, and Mario Onorini help carry the statue of Mary as Fr. Dattilo and the First Communicants from St. Catharine wait to present readings during the CincItalia religious procession on Sunday, May 15.

### 2011—the 150th Anniversary of the Risorgimento

#### From Piedmontese to Italian

The coin shown above in our masthead is a snapshot in time of the story of the remaking of a united Italy.

The reunification of Italy was initially powered by Piedmontese prudence and professionalism. But in 1860 as the coin shows, the *Risorgimento* needed to prove to the world Pied-



mont was not conquering the peninsula, but rather that Italy was rising up and uniting as one. Rome could not yet be the capital since French troops there prevented unification with the new Italian kingdom, so the government in Turin chose to move the capital to Firenze / Florence to make the point.

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# Italian Society



## UNITED ITALIAN SOCIETY OF CINCINNATI

The United Italian Society is having a great year! We are growing at a phenomenal rate and having a wonderful time doing it! In May we participated in CinItalia with a booth and took part in the Marian Procession. This fantastic festival is making great strides in preserving the authentic Italian heritage in Cincinnati and we are proud to be a part of it. We just had our annual picnic for members and their families at Fernbank Park. This is always a relaxing time for us since all we have to do is *mangia bene* and have fun being Italian down by the river.

The United Italian Society has experienced a tremendous growth in membership. As new members tell their friends about the good times we have we have grown. Welcome to all. In case you haven't already heard about us, I would like to tell you some things about our Society. The United Italian Society of Cincinnati is a rapidly growing group of Americans of Italian descent who are dedicated to honoring our immigrant forefathers and mothers by continuing the rich traditions and way of life they taught us. We are a fun-loving group that gathers to share our heritage with each other and the community. We have members of all ages including junior members starting at the age of twelve. The young people who join us instantly inherit numerous Italian aunts and uncles. Those in the middle enjoy the comradeship and company of those who grew up the same way as we did. Our seniors enjoy the respect, love and companionship we all know as part of our heritage. Our monthly meetings are social events in themselves with lots of fun and a great dinner provided from the kitchens of our members.

We meet at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at Sacred Heart Church, located at 2733 Massachusetts Ave. in Camp Washington. For more information about joining The United Italian Society, please visit our website at [www.uiscincinnati.org](http://www.uiscincinnati.org) or visit us on our meeting night. All are welcome.

Phil Sabatelli, President 



## ORDER SONS OF ITALY IN AMERICA, CINCINNATUS, FILIAL LODGE 1191

We hope you are enjoying the summer weather. Many of the members of Cincinnati Lodge, along with the Chairman, our President, Judge Ronald A. Panioto, participated in the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Sacred Heart's Ravioli/Spaghetti Dinner on April 17, 2011. This was the most successful dinner yet. We received a great deal of publicity from the Cincinnati Enquirer and it was a celebration like no other with special events and music furnished by Matt Snow. Pietro Cassinadri had his Italian Classes at Sacred Heart Church on Thursday evenings in the months of March and April. Everyone who attended found them very interesting, learned a great deal, and had a fabulous time. Pietro will again have the classes next year in March and April. He has devoted a great deal of time to make these classes so very worthwhile. The Order Sons of Italy, Cincinnati Lodge No. 1191, celebrated its eleventh annual Wine Tasting on May 21, 2011. The informative and enjoyable presentation by Roger Taylor of seven fine Italian wines preceded a fabulous meal. We are sure the 130 people who participated had a great time, especially since they all came early and stayed late. The Jerry Dattilo Memorial Golf Tournament on May 20 was an outstanding success and, again, Jimmy Dattilo generously donated the proceeds to our Scholarship Fund. We participated in the Newport Italianfest on June 9-12, and sold more than 5,200 cannolis prepared by our members to the appreciative crowd. A group from our Lodge also participated in the Italianfest Golf Tournament on June 9. We are sponsoring a Sons of Italy Night at the Reds Game on August 28, 2011. The tickets are \$25 for superb seats. This will be an enjoyable evening for the entire family. Please contact Mike Vaccariello at (513) 856-9551 or Ron Panioto Jr. at (513) 661-7066 for tickets. The annual Italian Invitational Golf Tournament will be held on September 12 at Maketewah Country Club. This golf tournament is praised extensively by all who attend and all proceeds go to charity. Please contact Judge Ronald A. Panioto if you wish to participate. Our annual Columbus Day Dinner Dance will be on October 8 at the Western Hills Country Club. We will present two \$5,000 scholarships to worthy students of Italian descent. The application is available on the Order Sons of Italy website, [www.osia.org](http://www.osia.org). The deadline is the end of July. The Order Sons of Italy Cincinnati Lodge 1191 Charitable Foundation has been created, and every donation received for the Scholarship Fund is now tax deductible. Donations are welcome all year long. If you wish to make a contribution to the Scholarship Fund, please make your check payable to the Order Sons of Italy Cincinnati Lodge 1191 Charitable Foundation and mail to 2093 Sylved Lane, Cincinnati, Ohio 45238. We hope to increase the amounts of the scholarship awards this year. The fall Sacred Heart Spaghetti/Ravioli Dinner will be on October 24, 2011, and, since it is still the 100<sup>th</sup> year celebration, it will be an outstanding dinner. If you wish to volunteer, please contact Joyce at the church at (513) 541-4654 or Marlene at (513) 946-7007. We invite all of you to participate and contribute to the fun we will all experience.

Our meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church. For more information about the Order Sons of Italy, Cincinnati Lodge #1191, please access our website, [www.cinosia.org](http://www.cinosia.org). We are all extremely proud of this informative website, so be sure to keep up with our activities by checking frequently.

Submitted by *Marlene Nesi*, Recording Secretary



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## World Choir Games 2012

*Please watch throughout the year for information regarding this international competition to be held in Cincinnati July 4 -14, 2012.*

*Our Italian societies were involved in the kickoff celebration held July 11, 2011, and expect to be more involved in upcoming cultural events.*

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## News

### Mezzo Mezzo Social Club

Since *La Voce* last went to press four months ago, the Mezzo-Mezzo Social club has produced two of its larger and most successful fund raising events of the year—the 2011 Spring Scholarship Banquet on March 26 and the Family Zoo Picnic on July 31. For more on those events, please read the fine articles written by Ryan Lehan and Becky Burns in this editions of *La Voce*. Meanwhile, MMSC is preparing for several more events—the summer Golf Outing on August 13 at Taylor Glen Golf Course (see article by Tony Pitocco in this issue) and a new event celebrating the feast of San Gennaro, the patron saint of Naples, Italy, on September 24. The San Gennaro celebration will be held in conjunction with Harry Stephens and his Bella Luna Restaurant and will be the first event of its kind in the Greater Cincinnati area. Keep an eye and ear out for information on this celebration—advertisements should soon be hitting the local airwaves. Additionally, the MMSC is involved in the “kick-off” ceremony for the 2012 World Choir Games held on July 11 on Fountain Square.

In addition to the many tasks performed by MMSC members in the normal course of the year's activities, several members have earned recognition for the effort they have expended on behalf of various charitable endeavors. Anthony Pitocco was a recipient of a \$5,000 scholarship at the Spring Scholarship Banquet in recognition of his successful course of study at the University of Cincinnati and the effort expended on the many MMSC functions with which he has become involved. Joe Pitocco was honored in Columbus, Ohio, by the statewide Grand Lodge of the Order Sons of Italy who presented the Thomas A. Folino Award to him. This award is presented to a winning nominee who has committed themselves to the betterment of their Italian heritage, and to those who have the enthusiasm and energy to carry out all assigned projects to absolute completion. Additionally, the recipient invests the time and effort well beyond what is expected of a volunteer, and has secured the respect of the Italian community for his involvement in their affairs. Congratulations to both Anthony and Joe for their services rendered and the recognition they have received. They are fine examples of what it means to be a MMSC member.

The Mezzo-Mezzo social club welcomes potential new members to join with us at our monthly meetings, held on the second Tuesday of each month. Invitation is extended to men and women, Italian and non-Italian, who have the desire to be active in our group for the benefit of those less fortunate than ourselves. As usual, the MMSC members wish to thank all the supporters of our past events and encourage you to attend the upcoming events. We recognize we could not be as successful and dynamic a group as we have come to be without the support of those who attend our events. Please let us hear any feedback or suggestions you may have regarding our events or suggestion for possible new ones. The MMSC is always on the look-out for something new, interesting and entertaining. We look forward to seeing you whether at our meetings, our events or on our website.

The Mezzo-Mezzo Social Club  
www.mezzo-mezzo.com.



### La Societa Di Fuscaldese

Beautiful summer is here and the cold has given way to the sun and rain. We've been able to enjoy many wonderful days with family and friends as festivals, weddings, graduations, First Communion, and other family events bring us together. We always seem to have many special events to enjoy and in our tradition, we love the baking, making of bonbonniere, and the celebrations we've grown up with.

We Fuscaldese want to congratulate our recent graduates. Congratulations to Elder High School graduates Mario Jansen and Joe Meisberger. Mario will be majoring in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Cincinnati and Joe will be an Electronic Media Major at the College Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati. Victoria Sabato is a Finneytown High School graduate who will be attending Xavier University as a Communications major. Congratulations also to Nicholas P. Newell on receiving his Masters Degree in International Business from the University of Cincinnati and Kristen Newell with her Associate Degree in Applied Science. We have a talented group of young adults who are a source of pride for our Italian community. We recognize their achievements and wish them well in their future endeavors. Congratulations to Victoria Sabato who has been selected to receive the \$1000 scholarship from our society. Victoria is the daughter of Ralph and Tara Sabato and the granddaughter of Eva and Joe Sabato.

We extend our good wishes to Marielle Vorherr and Brian Schmidt whose wedding was May 14, 2011. The happy couple honeymooned in Hawaii and they are now living in Mason.

Rain didn't dampen the fun at the Cincitalia Festival. Thanks to the organization provided by Jody Seta and her capable committee, our society provided delicious home-baked cookies and cannoli for all in attendance. Italian shirts, aprons, and baby bibs were also able to be purchased. Needless to say, without all the many willing workers, we would not have experienced the success we did. Thank you, everyone!

Our Italian heritage and pride is evident all summer. Many of us enjoyed the Newport Festival. We will once again honor our San Francesco with a 10 a.m. mass at Sacred Heart Church on July 10. Pompilio's will once again provide a delicious breakfast for everyone after the mass. Our Fuscaldese picnic will be August 21 at Kuliga Park on Bridgetown Road. Jennica Bass is chairman of this event where food, fun and games, and family are the highlights of the day. Feel free to join us in any of our events. Contact any member for any additional information.

Summertime is the time we recall the special weeks that many of us have spent returning to our motherland and visiting with our relatives in Fuscaldo. They are always in our hearts. I personally have enjoyed some of the Facebook chats with my relatives in Fuscaldo and Como. Technology has allowed many changes in our world and allows communication to truly make it a “small” world. Take the time to enjoy the rest of the summer and look forward to the fun events of the fall and then the upcoming holidays. Time really does move fast.

Marlene D'Andrea Vorherr, President, La Societa Fuscaldese Femminile



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# San Francesco DiPaola

## Patron Saint of Fulcaldo, Calabria, Italia

by Raffaella (Santoro) Newell

Vienna diFuscaldo lived in Fuscaldo paese. She married Giacomo d'Alessio, and Francesco was conceived in the house later owned by Carmine and Maria Ramundo, parents of Mike and Peppe Ramundo. Although Francesco was eventually born in Paola in 1416, the house where he was conceived has become a sanctuary to his memory. On the outside of the house is a plaque that gives the names and dates of events important in the life of San Francesco.

While still an infant, he suffered from a swelling that threatened the sight of one of his eyes. His parents prayed to Saint Francis of Assisi to cure their son, promising that the boy would spend a year in a Franciscan monastery. The swelling immediately disappeared. At thirteen, Francesco fulfilled his parents' vow and entered a nearby Franciscan monastery, where he was outstanding for his obedience to the monastic rule. A year later, he made a pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi. He returned home and decided to become a hermit. He went to live in a secluded cave overlooking the sea. There, for about six years, he slept on stone and ate only food that was given him or that he himself could gather in the woods. In 1435, he was joined by two other men who, with Francesco, formed the nucleus of the future Order of Minims. He cured the sick, raised the dead, averted plagues, expelled evil spirits, and brought sinners to penance.

For over forty years Francesco, wandered throughout southern and central Italy, gathering a large number of disciples founding monasteries and churches. Wherever he went, he preached his own dynamic concept of charity, of living love through fasting and mortification. Penances, charity, and humility formed the basis of the Minims' life, and to the usual three vows taken by monks, Francesco added a fourth: perpetual abstinence from meat. At one time, Church authorities attempted to make him retract this fourth rule, as too difficult for human nature to observe. In answer to this, Francesco, grasped some hot coals in his hands, holding them without pain or damage to himself, insisting that nothing is impossible to one who undertakes penances for the love of God.

When the avaricious King Ferdinand of Naples offered him money for his convent, Francesco told him to give it back to his oppressed subjects, and softened his heart by causing blood to flow from the ill-



gotten coin. Louis XI, of France, trembling at the approach of death, sent for the poor hermit to ward off the foe, whose advance neither his fortresses nor his guards could check. Francesco went by the Pope's command, and prepared the king for a holy death. The successors of Louis showered favors on the saint. His order spread throughout Europe, and his name was revered through the Christian world.

Francesco spent the last three months of his life in his cell preparing himself for death. He became grievously ill at the beginning of Holy Week in 1507 and died on Good Friday at three o'clock in the afternoon, with the crucifix in his hand and the last words of Jesus on his lips, "Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit." He was canonized twelve years later, in 1519, by Pope Leo X.

In July of each year, the statue of San Francesco is taken from the convent to the main church, La Chiesa Matrice, where it is placed for 24 hours. A procession follows through the streets of Fuscaldo, the statue of San Francesco stops at the house where he was conceived, and

special homage is paid to him there. There is a stipulation that the house will remain in the Ramundo family forever.

On the second Sunday in July of every year, La Societa Fuscaldese Femminile pays homage to San Francesco with a mass and a breakfast, prepared and served by Pompilio's restaurant, at Sacred Heart Church. Our statue of San Francesco, sculpted by John Giglio, is placed at the communion rail. In recent years, a crown of gold, with the word CHARITAS, made by Frank Perrotta, has been placed on the statue of San Francesco.

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MEZZO-MEZZO® SOCIAL CLUB

Sixth Annual Spring Scholarship Dinner Dance

By Ryan Lehan / photo by Jane Pitocco

Spring season is usually greeted by opening the windows and breathing in the fresh air, listening to the birds sing, and watching the flowers bloom. But on March 26, 2011, Mezzo-Mezzo Social Club (MMSC) ushered in the Spring season with music jamming, people dancing, and mouth watering dining with their annual scholarship dinner dance at the Cincinnati Museum Center.

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres kicked off the festivities followed by a lavish dinner that was prepared by the chefs of Deco Dining/Sodexo. Leroy Ellington & the E-Funk Band filled the air with non-stop tunes. The night of dining, dancing, and socializing was topped off with Mezzo-Mezzo Social Club awarding a whopping \$20,000 to scholarship and raffle winners.

The 2011 spring scholarship dance was MMSC's first \$10,000.00 raffle drawing. Lt. Col. Vincent Demasi, Assistant Chief of the Cincinnati Police Department, drew the lucky ticket and awarded



Members' group photo with scholarship winners holding their checks Anthony Pitocco and Zach McCarthy

the \$10,000.00 prize to Joe Ottaviani. But that was not the only first for MMSC. Their trademark generosity of a \$5,000.00 college scholarship award was doubled to two \$5,000.00 awards. Master of Ceremonies, Pete Scalia, news anchor for Channels 22/45 in Dayton, Ohio presented the awards.

This year, the scholarships were awarded to Mr. Zachary McCarthy and Mr. Anthony Pitocco. Zachary is

a senior at University of Cincinnati. Majoring in Chemical Engineering, a 5-year program at UC, Zachary also works part-time at Duke Energy, and plays drums for the band *Lunch Box*. Just recently, he signed a letter of intent to be employed full-time at Duke Energy upon completion of his studies. Anthony, a junior at the University of Cincinnati is majoring in Finance. Anthony works part-time for SSA food services. Through his frater-

nity, Alpha Tau Omega at UC, and as a member in MMSC, Anthony spends countless hours working to raise money for charitable organizations and to improve the local community. Their qualities, drive and ambition made these two young men equally deserving of the awards. The Mezzo-Mezzo Social Club is proud to be a part in fulfilling the dreams of such talented young men and wishes them all the best.

MMSC would like to thank all those who attended this fun-filled and successful event and invites everyone to next year's banquet. For additional information about MMSC and future events, please visit our website at [www.Mezzo-Mezzo.com](http://www.Mezzo-Mezzo.com).



Among the many, many who enjoyed the evening: Jane Pitocco, Mario Onorini.



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# The Risorgimento

The political and military battles that brought together most of the Italian peninsula were intricate and bloody. The only state in the boot run by Italians without foreign influence was the Piedmontese Kingdom of Sardinia, which in 1848 harshly learned it could not defeat the foreign

occupiers by itself. Politics, therefore, had to be intricate rather than straightforward. And since defensive weapons were much more advanced than offensive ones, casualties were very high just as they were during our American Civil War fought during the same years. Emancipation had its costs.

## Count Camillo Cavour, a prince of foxes.

by Patricia Yannarella

"I have faith that Italy will become one state and will have Rome for its capital . . . But remember, among my political friends no one believes the enterprise [vis. the union of Italy] possible. . . ." These words Camillo Benso Conte de Cavour wrote in a letter to La Farina, Secretary of the Italian National Society, in September, 1857.



Who was this visionary Cavour? He was an Italian statesman and prime minister (1852-59; 1860-61) who was born on August 1, 1810, in the Kingdom of Sardinia, also called Piedmont.

The Kingdom of Sardinia included Savoy, Piedmont with its capital Turin, Nice, Liguria with the city of Genoa, and the island of Sardinia.

As the younger son of a Piedmontese aristocratic family, it was expected that Cavour would follow a career in the army. For several years he was a lieutenant of engineers in the Sardinian army, but resigned in 1831 to study politics, agricultural experimentation, and to travel. Politically, Cavour wanted a constitutional monarchy rather than an absolute monarchy.

In 1847 Cavour helped start a liberal newspaper called *Il Risorgimento* (The Resurrection), which became the official voice for the Italian National Movement. The paper demanded a constitution and supported industrial development. As editor of the paper, Cavour pressed King Charles Albert of Sardinia to grant a constitution to the people and to battle against the Austrians occupying the Italian peninsula. When the king's military actions against Austria failed

(Article continues on the next page.)

## Giuseppe Garibaldi, larger than life in a thousand ways.

by Philip Yannarella and Mark D'Annunzio

Giuseppe Garibaldi was born on July 4, 1807 in Nice, which was then part of Italy, and died on June 2, 1882. Italy consisted of independent states, many of which were occupied by French, Austrian, and Spanish invaders. His idealistic and unselfish patriotism led to triumph over impossible difficulties and unification of all the divided states into one nation.

He developed his military experience during his exile in South America from 1836 to 1848 where he was involved in liberation movements in Uruguay and Brazil. He raised his own volunteers for these struggles. In 1842, in Argentina, Garibaldi outfitted his new *Italian legion* with a stock of red shirts that had been intended for butchers. This showed their devotion to the common worker and was the beginning of *Garibaldi and his Redshirts* with whom he returned to Italy in 1848.



After an unsuccessful campaign against the French in Rome and central Italy in 1849 [11; see map], he went into exile in Peru. From Peru, he went to New York in 1850 where he worked as a candle maker and raised money for the cause in Italy. In 1855, he returned to Italy and bought land on the island of Caprera,

(Article continues on the next page.)

## Vittorio Emanuele II "Ma l'Italia sarà!"

by Alan Biondi

Vittorio Emanuele II was the elder son of Carlo Alberto, who from Torino ruled the Piedmontese Kingdom of Sardegna [1a+1b; see map], the only part of the peninsula not propped up by a foreign power. When democracy fever swept over much of Europe in 1848, Carlo Alberto granted his subjects a constitution and waged war against the Austrian Empire to liberate Lombardy [2], the Veneto [10], and Dalmatia.

Both his sons participated with him in frontline battles despite the peril, and at first success greeted their efforts. In the second of those early battles, Vittorio Emanuele II led a brilliant charge of his cavalry brigade that drove the Austrians from the field. When wounded, his only comment was, "How my brother will envy me." *Fortuna*, however, turned against them, and it is said that when their army was crushed in the last battle, at Novara, as Vittorio was leading his shattered brigade from the battlefield, he wheeled his horse about, menacingly flourishing his saber faced the advancing Austrians, and shouted, "Ma l'Italia sarà! / Despite this there will be an Italy!"

Carlo Alberto was detested by Austria and the other absolute monarchies of Europe for his betrayal of his class in granting a constitution. Peace was only achieved, then, with his abdication and Vittorio Emanuele's assumption of the throne.

Vittorio stood by the constitution despite vociferous tirades from other European governments, learned to work with a parliament, and continued his father's modernization of the nation.

Despite some misgivings early on, in 1852, Vittorio Emanuele II gave Count Camillo di Cavour the position of Prime Minister, a wise decision since Cavour proved to be a political genius. Vittorio Emanuele soon became a symbol of the Italian Risorgimento. In many towns throughout the boot, crowds shouted *VERDI*, supposedly the great composer's name (and so bringing safety from arrest by hostile local authorities) but actually enthused by its ul-

(Article continues on the next page.)

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(Cavour, continued from p. 6.)

(1848-1849), King Charles Albert abdicated in favor of his eldest son, Victor Emmanuel II.

Cavour became a member of parliament from 1848-1849. He was minister of agriculture, industry, and commerce in 1850, finance minister in 1851, and prime minister beginning in 1852. As prime minister, Cavour worked to make the Kingdom of Sardinia [1a+1b; see map] the leading Italian state and to be recognized by world powers as such. He allied Sardinia with Great Britain and France in the Crimean War (1854-1856) against Russia. His greatest achievement was maneuvering Napoleon III of France into the Second War for Italian Independence against Austria in 1858. France and Sardinia were victorious, winning Lombardy [2]. But when, in the 1859 *Armistice of Villafranca de Verona*, France allowed Austria to keep Venetia province [10], Cavour resigned in protest.

But Cavour had started an avalanche. When he became prime minister again in January 1860, Cavour and Napoleon III signed a treaty that gained French support of Sardinia's annexation of North-Central Italy, which included Parma, Modena, the Romagna [3], and Tuscany [4] in return for turning over to France Savoy [5] and Nice [6]. Now a third of Italian territory was under King Victor Emmanuel II; and about one half of the Italian people, some 11 million, lived in the king's territory.

Cavour allowed Garibaldi and his "thousand" to sail from Genoa to Sicily [7a] to help in a revolt there. Cavour had to walk a tight-rope so as not to provoke French or Austrian intervention by appearing involved in the adventure. Yet when Garibaldi overran the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies [7a+7b], Cavour persuaded Garibaldi to allow the territories of Sicily and Naples to be annexed under King Victor Emmanuel II. Cavour also sent troops into the Papal States, avoiding Rome. These territories [8 & 9, the Marche & Umbria] had opted for union with the Sardinian monarchy. On March 17, 1861, Cavour had parliament proclaim Victor Emmanuel II King of Italy.

Cavour became ill and died in Turin on June 6, 1861. Before his death he persuaded parliament to proclaim the city of Rome to be the capital of the kingdom, and it did become the capital in 1871 when King Victor Emmanuel II took up residence in the Palazzo del Quirinale in Rome.

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(Garibaldi, continued from p. 6.)

where he built a home. In 1859, the Piedmontese [1a+1b] went to war with the Austrian Empire with the aid of France. When the French and Piedmontese liberated Lombardy [2], many of the other northern states such as the duchies of Parma, Modena, and Tuscany [3 & 4] tossed out their foreign-backed absolute monarchs and pleaded to join the growing free territory in the peninsula. As the French leader (Napoleon III) took freight at the idea of a strong Italian nation neighboring his France, he abandoned the war before liberating Venice and the Veneto [10] as he had promised. Garibaldi then began secretly scheming with the Piedmontese to attempt the liberation of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies [7a+7b].

Garibaldi sailed with his *Redshirts*, his *Thousand*, to western Sicily, defeated a small opposing force, marched across the island, won a fierce fight at Milazzo, with the help of



the British navy jumped to Calabria, the toe, and marched north to Napoli, the capital. The largest battle of the campaign was then fought to a stalemate north of Napoli. The Piedmontese army by then had marched south, gathering in the newly freed regions in central Italy [8 & 9] and intervened, forcing the surrender of the army of the late Kingdom of the Two Sicilies that had resisted Garibaldi.

At a famous site, Teano, Garibaldi met the Piedmontese king, Vittorio Emanuele II, and handed over his startling conquests with a simple handshake. Italy's *Cincinnatus* then retired to his home on the island of Caprera. On a number of occasions after that, he put aside his farming activities, took up a saber again, and fought in struggles to liberate Venice and the Veneto [10] (accomplished in 1866) from the Austrian Empire, and he fought in his own, unsuccessful struggles to capture Rome (which was protected by French troops and the threat of a French war against the new and fragile Kingdom of Italy that was forming).

The resolute commander of the *Redshirts*, expert of guerrilla war tactics, bold leader of the *Expedition of the Thousand*, a man Abraham Lincoln wanted to be a general in his struggle to save the union, *Hunter of the Alps*, and the *Hero of Two Continents* died in 1882 at his home on the island of Caprera.

(Vittorio Emanuele II, continued from p. 6.)



terior message, *Vittorio Emanuele Re D'Italia!* / Victor Emmanuel King of Italy!

Then in 1859, after gaining favor with Britain and especially France by joining them in the Crimean War against Russia, Vittorio worked with his prime minister craftily managing to sign France to a defensive treaty while goading Austria into declaring war. That brought France to a war alongside the Piedmontese. Austria was defeated on the battlefield and abandoned Lombardy, but alarmed that he might be creating a strong neighbor, France's Napoleon III secretly made a treaty with Franz Joseph of Austria at Villafranca whereby Piedmont would gain only Lombardy [2] while Venezia [10] and Dalmatia remained Austrian. The French soon after, nonetheless, did affirm the right of the north-central Italian duchies [3 & 4] that had chased out their absolutist rulers to hold plebiscites on joining the growing Piedmontese kingdom. It was then the king's and Garibaldi's homelands, Savoy [5] and Nice [6], were ceded to France.

Then, when Garibaldi conquered Sicily [7a] and the rest of Southern Italy [7b], pressure grew to demonstrate to the world that this was more a unification of Italy than simply conquests by Piedmont. So, after the Marche and Umbria [8 & 9] joined and all the plebiscites came in, in favor of unification, Vittorio was declared King of Italy and the capital of the kingdom was moved from Torino to Firenze / Florence.

With new Italy as an ally, the *Prussian Cavour*, Bismarck, maneuvered Austria into a war in 1866. Though the new, now *Italian* army was defeated on the battlefield, Garibaldi and his *Hunters of the Alps* had much better luck behind Austrian lines. While the Italians tied down huge Austrian military resources, the Prussians' new breech-loading, bolt-action rifles won battles. Austria had to cede hegemony in Germany to Prussia and the Veneto [10] to Italy. Not long after, Bismarck tricked France into a disastrous war in 1870. The French troops around Roma [11] had to be recalled, and on September 20, 1870, Vittorio moved the capital there; on July 2, 1871, taking residence in the Quirinal Palace.

Brave, determined, patient, and practical, this first leader of a united Italia since the Romans succeeded because he could work well with other talented individuals. Vittorio died in Roma in 1878 and is buried in a tomb in the Pantheon.



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**ELEVENTH ANNUAL  
 WINE TASTING FOR  
 THE CINCINNATUS LODGE  
 ORDER SONS OF ITALY**

By *Marlene Nesi*

*"IN WINE ONE BEHOLDS THE HEART OF ANOTHER!"*

The eleventh annual Order Sons of Italy Wine Tasting was held on May 21, 2011, at Sacred Heart Church. Roger Taylor, with his charming Australian accent and expertise on fine wines, presented seven fine Italian wines: *Sannio Coda di Volpe Doc*, *Navicchio*, *Vini Piemontesi Italia*, *Marèia Barbera Monferrato*, *Montepulciano D'Abruzzo*, *Montepulciano D'Abruzzo Colline Teramane*, and *Falesco*.

Cheese, crackers, and fruit were served during the wine tasting. Roger's presentation was extremely informative and interspersed with his amazing wit.

After the wine tasting, a superb meal was served that included antipasto, Italian salad, ciabatta bread, pasta, parmesan chicken, stuffed pork with sausage and spinach, seasoned zucchini, and an excellent dessert of Tiramisu. Roger also donated a bottle of extremely expensive fine wine for the raffle.

A special thanks to Mike Vaccariello for his donation of prizes for the raffle. With 130 people attending, there was much laughter and camaraderie and a great time was had by all. The crowd came early and stayed late so you know that indicates a successful evening.

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**Annual Cincinnati Zoo Picnic**

By *Becky Burns* / photos by *Jane Pitocco*

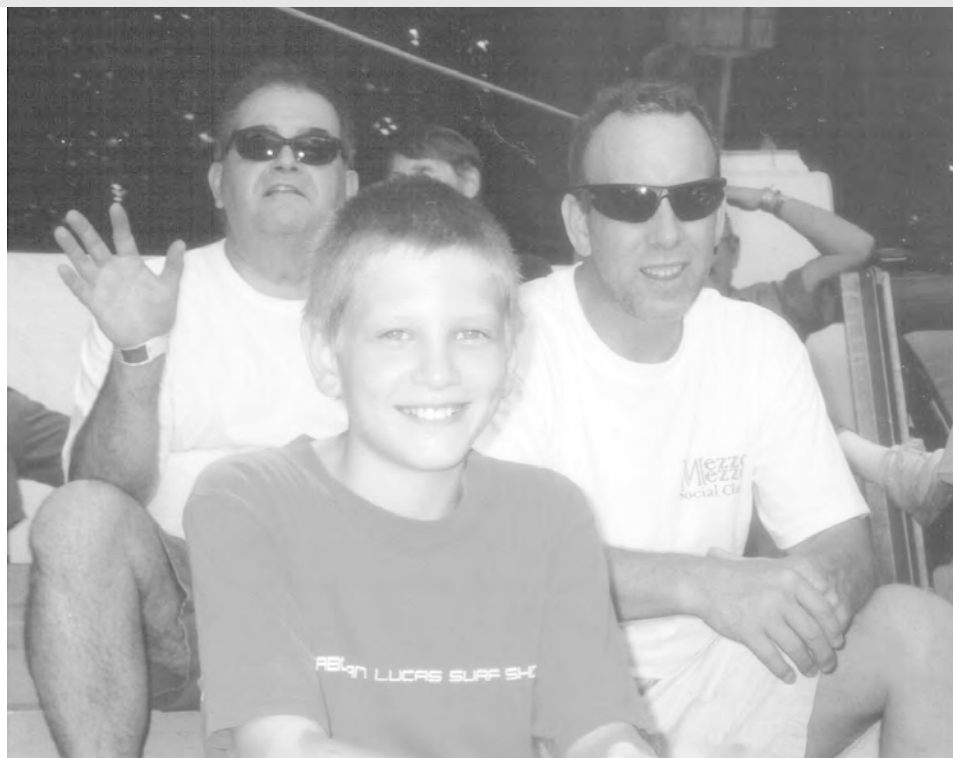
MEZZO-MEZZO SOCIAL CLUB held their annual picnic at the Cincinnati Zoo on Sunday, July 31.

This always is a fun event. Plenty of food, sharing time with family and friends, and the Zoo animals are always entertaining.

My family has attended this picnic at the Zoo for the past several years, and

each year we have fun, and we look forward to the event in the following year.

The shelters are away from the animals, so we ate and drank at our leisure, then we went strolling through the Zoo. When we got tired, we just went back to the shelter for some more refreshments and rest until we felt like strolling again.



Enjoying the day: Joe Pitocco, Chris Abell, and, in front, Johnathan Abell



Lisa Lehan and Michelle Vaccariello here among the crowd that enjoyed this annual Mezzo-Mezzo event.

This was convenient for families with children; little ones always want something to drink.

The food and refreshments started at noon and were available the rest of the day. All attendees received a wrist band, so they were able to come and go as they liked.

The MMSC members put their efforts into this event to ensure a good day

for everyone. The food and refreshments were provided, and during the event there were raffles and prizes. (You have seen that they work hard on every event they sponsor.) If you attended this event, you know what fun it was. If you have not seen the zoo in the last few years, be sure to come and join us at the Cincinnati Zoo next year.

*CincItalia 2012* is tentatively scheduled for May 18-20, 2012. If you have any suggestions, comments or ideas, please send them to [info@cincitalia.org](mailto:info@cincitalia.org).

# Harvesting Grapes, Nurturing Friendships

by Gina Onorini

From the second floor balcony, I was able to view the Umbrian countryside. Green hills dotted with olive trees, fields lined with grapevines, farmers riding three-wheeled trucks, and chickens, geese, and turkeys scurrying about in the crisp October air. What an eyeful of pure delight. Visiting my mother-in-law in this central region of Italy has become almost an annual ritual for my husband (Mario), and me. It feels like coming home. *Vicini di casa* (neighbors) have come to expect us each year.

I join my husband and mother-in-law downstairs. She always greets me with a kiss and asks, "*Ciao tesora, hai dormite bene?*" /Ciao my treasure, did you sleep well?" The espresso here tastes as rich as it smells. What a great way to start the day, a *bacio* and a *café*/a kiss and a coffee. The three of us head outside and tend to the chickens and newly laid eggs, search the garden for ripe veggies, and talk to Franco, the farmer who lives next door. He tells us that he is ready to harvest grapes this coming week. He has many acres of land and farming is his source of income. He and his wife Ada have a huge stone home that has been in the family for generations. It is heartwarming to see generations of family living and working together, and it is easy to understand why Italians have perfected foods like prosciutto and pasta. From very young they are taught where food comes from and the importance to care for and nurture it. It is part of family. As Franco was speaking to us, I wondered how he and his family would be able to harvest all those fields of grapes.

The next morning I saw Franco and Lucio (Franco's brother) heading into the vineyard in their small, three wheeled truck. White buckets and clippers filled the trailer. Within a half hour, approximately ten men and women joined them. Soon they were all clipping and filling the white buckets with ripe grapes. They moved in unison up and down the rows of grapevines. I asked my mother-in-law, "Who are all these people, and does Franco have to pay them?" "*No tesora, sono amici/no my treasure, they are friends.*" She went on to say that they help each other every year. The friends who don't farm get "paid" in wine, poultry, or a prosciutto or two.

Mario and I joined the harvesting troop the next day. We donned our

blue jeans and t-shirts and grabbed some clippers and buckets. A friend, Secondo (named for being the second son), showed me where to clip the bunches of grapes. As we harvested, we talked about Secondo's brother who was ill with kidney problems, Carla's new grandson, the effects of the drought on the Tiber River, and so on. Franco showed up with some cool drinks, and after the break we loaded buckets onto the trailer. Lucio drove the trailer to the house where doors opened from the cantina. That's where the processing takes place. Franco has an electric machine that separates the grapes from the stems. He told me that he doesn't like to ferment the grapes with the branches as they make the wine harsh and sour. Gianfranco, a friend who grew up in southern France,



Mario, Franco, and Secondo pressing grapes in the cantina.

moved the grapes to the press room. They were carefully crushed and stored for fermentation. Somehow, with Gianfranco involved, an Italian who speaks with a French accent, there seemed no way that the wine wouldn't ferment perfectly.

I noticed that Franco was saving bunches of grapes and hanging them in the cantina. I asked what was he doing and he shouted "*uva secca, raisins.*" After the grapes dehydrate and turn into raisins, he ferments them to make a sweet wine called *Vino Santo* (holy



The troop: Mario, Franco, Yolanda (Franco's widowed sister-in-law), Chiara, Santina, Simone (Franco's son), Ada, Lucio, me, Secondo, Ivo, and Carla.

wine), which is ready in the spring usually during Holy Week.

Within four days all of Franco's vineyards were harvested thanks to *vicini di casa* and *amici*. He was very happy, because he was ahead of schedule. The fourth night of harvesting brought an incredible "grazie" meal from Franco and Ada. All twelve of us were invited. She set a long table in the middle of the kitchen. We ended the fabulous meal with fresh fruits and almond *torta* (cake). We talked, laughed and toasted for a successful harvest and good wine.

In four days not only were all the fields harvested, but the grapes were prepared, pressed, and ready to begin the process of turning into wine. Without much ado, the troop all decided to go to Secondo's farm next week. All it took was a comment from Secondo that his white grapes were ready. Just like that the troop was ready and willing to help.

Below us in the cantina, the wine begins fermenting as the friends and relatives in Franco's kitchen continue nurturing their great friendships and Italian way of life; a truly *Buona Vita*.



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# Our United Italian Society 2011 PICNIC

by Lydia Muti and Dave Sabatelli / photos by Josi Niemeier

Better weather could have been hoped for, but hardly by much. There was barely any humidity, which made our annual outdoors event just about perfect.

As is tradition now, the Sabatelli clan and friends, spent plenty of time preparing things for what is one of our favorite UIS events. Cooking the 30 pounds of red peppers and 40 pounds of onions began on Friday. Judy and Rose Sabatelli and Earl Einhaus among others were a big help. That Sunday morning at about 11 a.m., they gathered to set up the picnic area we once again used this year. Within a short time, a festive-looking set of tables and smoking grills greeted the first arrivals.

By 12:45 the grills were going great, and the sausages, onions, and red peppers were being served. Once again it was truly a feast with all the food each of the groups and individuals brought for themselves and to share.

Though oftentimes overcast, the weather stayed pleasant throughout the day. The setting, right by the river, as always, was inviting and a great area to accommodate all our needs. All of our members are the ones who make the day memorable. As on all the previous picnic days, food was passed around along with our conversations. A great day to be of Italian descent with all that goes with it—family, friends, and food.

The photos of the day show that the Sabatelli, Einhaus, Milazzo, Onorini, Meale, Santoro, Gromen, Ottaviani (yes, Peppina!), Ciafardini, Biondi, Giacometti, and a dozen other individuals and families, all had a splendid picnic.



Earl Einhaus with Dave Sabatelli at the grills.



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## It's a Beautiful Life



In a recent issue of *La Voce*, I wrote a story about my lovely Italian Aunt, Fondina Mancini Aloisio, born in Conversano, Italy, in 1902, February 18. *Si Si*, as she was known to all the family, was the last survivor of the Mancini family of six sisters and two brothers.

On May 21, 2011, she was called by her heavenly Father to join the rest of the family with Him. She died a peaceful death with her son, Vic, and his wife, Mary, by her side. She truly lived the fullest of a



Si Si with her nieces and her great-nieces

beautiful life and will be missed by all of her remaining nieces and nephew. God bless you Si Si and continue with the life God has prepared for you in heaven.

Thanks again to Vic and to Marty and to all her caretakers.

My love goes with you,  
Rose Marie Ranieri Santoro

## Our *La Voce Italiana*

A bit of good news for us is that The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County somehow has seen our newspaper, and now will be archiving each of the issues. It's always good to be recognized as having some worth. Three cheers for the United Italian Society (our sponsor), Team *La Voce*, our advertisers, and all of our patrons.

Remember our advertisers. Our advertisers cover much of the printing and mailing costs. Without these friends, our newspaper would not be able to get off the ground.

Along with our advertisers, readers such as these make our newspaper possible. Here are the people who, since the last issue, took the time to send us a donation to help make this *La Voce* possible. Here are our patrons:

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