

La Voce Italiana

THE ITALIAN VOICE



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The United Italian Society



CINCINNATI, OHIO

The 100th Anniversary of the Sacred Heart Church *Ravioli Dinner*

Anthony R. Novello



Above: a filled auditorium with great entertainment at the April dinner.

Below: at the April event, the wonderful Pete Wagner Band provided music outside for the crowd in line for the dinner.



Sponsored by Sacred Heart Church, these dinners once again this year demonstrated the fact that people can fulfill an arduous task by working together for a very worthwhile cause or enterprise. The most remarkable fact of this, however, for us to keep in mind, is that it represented a very large "family," working smoothly and efficiently and hoping that by their success, other groups can benefit by following their example.

This year, Sacred Heart Church held its two dinners in April and October. Both were great examples of what cooperation can accomplish. As you know, the workers consisted of teenagers, people from all walks of life, including professionals, and anyone willing to lend a helping hand. They were characterized by a friendly spirit that pervaded the atmosphere and was instrumental in assuring the success of the events.

By providing a means of good eating with culinary style, but simultaneously showing an amazing cooperation by diverse sections of our society, it is hoped that this universalized activity spurs others to follow this unselfish and uplifting example for the benefit of our entire community.



In la cucina, a good number of helpers kept things moving along for all the long hours needed to make a huge number of us wanting a good Italian meal very happy.



Veterans and grandsons were at the ready to serve the crowds.



Cincinnati's best and favorite chef, Jean-Robert, not only enjoyed the food, he helped the volunteers make it all possible.



Matt Snow, *The Cincinnati Sinatra*, at the October dinner, entertained everyone while they were waiting, enjoying the food, or visiting with friends.

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After World War II, Italy had a monumental task of rebuilding while avoiding a communist takeover. As the monarchy was voted out and a republic declared, the national government created a multitude of different agency positions to bring down the number of unemployed, but it also had to mint and print more

money to pay for salaries, health care, pensions, and other benefits. The results were coins like the one shown above, beautiful, of very large denominations, and light as a feather. Compare this coin with the 5-Lira and the 2-Lira coins on the April and the August issues. Those coins are heavy with silver.



Italian Society



UNITED ITALIAN SOCIETY OF CINCINNATI

The United Italian Society is having another great year! We are growing at a phenomenal rate as new members tell their friends about the great fellowship and meals they have at our meetings.

When you get this issue of *La Voce* we will have had our annual Christmas Party for our members and family. We all love this event and try to make it more memorable every year. All of us at The United Italian Society send to all of our *paesani auguri di Boun Natale! e Boun Anno Nuovo!*

This will be the last article I will write in this column as president. After five years of having the honor of the office it is time to move on and place the Society in the capable hands of Joe Mastruserio who I am sure will lead us to even greater days. I have enjoyed every minute of my time as president and I plan to stay very involved and work and help all of the wonderful people in our Society as I continue in my passion for preserving the traditions of our immigrant parents and forefathers.

Every year we have had our great times and also some times of sorrow. We lost Joe Longo, Vic Lassandro, and Joe Coffaro since the last issue of *La Voce*. They will be greatly missed. Also the Italian community, especially the South Fairmount Little Italy, mourns the loss of JoAnn Augustine LaRosa. She was the wife of our long time *La Voce* advertiser, Buddy LaRosa.

We received some wonderful support in October from our benefactors Enzo and Gabriella Ferraris, who are living in Sardenia, in the form of checks of \$200 for *La Voce* and \$500 for the United Italian Society. We are truly grateful to Enzo and Gabriella.

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 PM 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 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 that 2011 has been a good year for everyone. We have just celebrated a record turnout on October 23 for the 100th Anniversary of the Sacred Heart Spaghetti/Ravioli Dinner under the chairmanship of our president, Judge Ronald A. Panioto. Matt Snow entertained the large crowd, many of whom stood in line for hours. Obviously, that is a good indication of the quality of the food. Remember that the next dinner will be on Palm Sunday, April 1, 2012.

Under the direction of Pam Casebolt, the Order Sons of Italy participated in the kickoff celebration on Fountain Square of the World Choir Games that will be held in Cincinnati next year. We displayed items depicting the culture of Italy, and Judge Panioto and Joe Pitocco demonstrated the game of Bocce Ball on a version designed and built by Ron Panioto, Jr.

The Order Sons of Italy will be sponsoring a Conceal and Carry Class in the near future. Please contact Assistant Police Chief Vincent Demasi at 678-2071 if you are interested in attending this class. Cincinnati Lodge 1191 will also be undertaking a wine making project after the first of the year.

The Sons of Italy Night at the Reds game was held on August 28. Those who attended received a Cincinnati Reds hat and a great time was had by all. Our Columbus Day Dinner Dance was October 8 at Western Hills Country Club. This year's scholarship recipient was a sophomore at the University of Cincinnati, Josh Pastura. The Man of the Year award went to a most deserving recipient, Chris Como. Mark your calendar for next year's gala event. It will be on October 6, 2012. You really don't want to miss this exciting evening.

Our annual Christmas party will be held on December 15 at Sacred Heart Church. For the New Year, we are looking forward to hosting the Order sons of Italy Grand Council Meeting that will be held here in Cincinnati on February 25, 2012. There will be delegates here from all the lodges in the State of Ohio, and it was an honor to be asked to sponsor this important occasion.

We wish all of you a joyous, healthy, and happy holiday season.

Our meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month at 7 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. 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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News



Mezzo Mezzo Social Club

The last few months have indeed been very active ones for the members of the Mezzo Mezzo Social Club, but we are eagerly anticipating an exciting start to the year 2012. Hopefully, you will be able to attend some of our upcoming events and help us assist those less fortunate than ourselves.

Since the last edition of *LaVoce*, the MMSC has successfully concluded a number of events—the Family Zoo Picnic, the annual Golf Outing at Taylor Glen Golf Course, and the inaugural San Gennaro Festival of Cincinnati in conjunction with Harry Stephens at Bella Luna Restaurant, in addition to holding its annual Christmas Party for its members and laying the groundwork for future events throughout 2012. On New Year's Eve morning, MMSC will hold its Holiday Breakfast at the Cock and Bull Restaurant in Hyde Park at 8 a.m. The public is invited. This is a slight change from prior years where the breakfast was held on Christmas Eve morning. The Club is following up with its now famous Pizza Party on Saturday, January 14, 2012, at St Rita's School, a return of the pre-Lenten Fat Tuesday celebration on February 21, 2012, and the Scholarship Banquet at the Cincinnati Museum Center on March 24, featuring the \$10,000 Raffle.

The Scholarship Application is now online at www.mezzo-mezzo.com and can be downloaded and forwarded to Ryan Lehan, our Scholarship Application coordinator. We invite all eligible undergraduate students to submit your applications by January 31, 2012. Again this year, we expect to award two \$5,000 scholarships.

Our group continues to expand and, given the quantity and quality of our events, we are always looking to add energetic, active new members. If your interest lies in being part of a dynamic social group whose main objectives are social interaction, networking, and charitable giving, please speak with one of our members about joining MMSC. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Stop by for dinner and the opportunity to meet all the members. You will be glad you did.

Thanks to all who have attended our events and supported our causes in the past year. It was a lot of fun and a lot of work, but we look forward with anticipation to 2012. Check our website or speak to our members if you have any questions.

BUON NATALE! FELICE ANNO NUOVO!

From the Mezzo Mezzo Social Club
www.mezzo-mezzo.com



La Societa Di Fusaldese

Buon Natale e Buon Anno from the Fusaldese women. We are approaching the end of a very productive year in our society. We ladies

have been responsible for great fellowship within our members, and we have reached out to the community with charitable contributions and participation in several events. Our members have enjoyed many activities so far including: working the CincItalia event in May, attending the mass and breakfast in honor of San Francesco di Paola in July, participating in the kickoff for the World Choir Games on Fountain Square also in July, delighting in the fun of our annual picnic held at Kuliga Park in Bridegetown (complete with a snow cone machine that was in constant use offering many delicious flavors), attending the show *Wicked* at the Aronoff, and participating at an annual P&G bazaar at Kenwood Country Club in November.

A new board of directors was elected in October. The holiday events include a members' lunch at Pompilio's and the annual La Famiglia Christmas party on December 10.

The members experienced many happy events and not so happy ones this past year. We've rejoiced at the birth of new babies and attended beautiful weddings, graduations, First Communions and Confirmations. We've supported members through their surgeries and times of illnesses. We are not just the society but a family.

Our young people are really on the move. We congratulate Courtney Gentile, granddaughter of member Raffaella Gentile, who graduated with a Bachelors degree in Business Administration. We also congratulate Jaclyn Gentile, who has accepted a position with Procter and Gamble in Minneapolis, MN.

Congratulations to Kristen Newell, granddaughter of Raffaella Newell, who earned an Associates Degree in Medical Coding and Billing from the University of Cincinnati this past June.

Also to Nicholas Newell who received a Masters Degree in International Business from the University of Cincinnati. Nick is now studying for a Masters Degree in Portugese and Spanish. Nick was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the United Italian Society when he was attending LaSalle High School. Nick is the son of Douglas Newell, who is a member of the Sons of Italy, and grandson of member Raffaella Newell.

Marlene D'Andrea Vorherr



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MEZZO-MEZZO® SOCIAL CLUB

NEW YEAR'S EVE MORNING BREAKFAST

In an effort to ease the stress during the Holiday season (last minute shopping, errands, etc.), Mezzo-Mezzo has moved the Holiday Buffet to the morning of December 31 at 8 a.m. The social and buffet will be held at the Cock and Bull on Hyde Park Square (plenty of parking). The cost will be \$20 per person and is open to the public.

Seating is limited to fifty. Please make reservations early and bring a special guest or two. Joe Pitocco will be serving his famous "Mimosas." Please call Tony Jagoditz for reservations (513) 321-7430.



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Our United Italian Society 2011 Scholarship Winning Essay



Galileo answering a student's questions.

Galileo Galilei is considered by many to be the greatest scientist of all time. He was not only the world's most famous astronomer, but also a mathematician, physicist, and philosopher. He was born in Pisa on February 15, 1564 to Vincenzo Galilei, a musician, and Guilia Ammannati. He was the oldest of six children, although two of his siblings did not live past infancy. In 1572, his family moved to Florence. He received much of his education at the Camaldolese Monastery southeast of Florence.

In 1581, Galileo had accomplished the required prerequisites to enter the University of Pisa. Although his father wanted him to study medicine, Galileo was more interested in mathematics and physics, studying the works of Euclid and Archimedes. It was in Pisa that he first began formulating his own opinions about the world around him. After watching a swinging lamp in the cathedral of Pisa, he performed experiments and discovered the uniformity of pendulum vibrations, a critical step in the measurement of time. He also invented the bilancetta, or hydrostatic balance, a method for weighing objects in water and air that built upon Archimedes' famous bathtub experiments where he discovered the prin-



Noah Mastruserio receiving his award from our Paola Girelli Harding.

ciples of buoyancy and density.

Galileo became a scientific celebrity but also a troublemaker because he did not agree with the conventional wisdom of his contemporaries. At the time, philosophy, science, and theology were all intertwined, and philosophical theories such as Aristotle's were accepted as scientific fact. Galileo developed and

encouraged the use of scientific method using experimentation and mathematics to prove, and disprove, theories. To go against Aristotle seemed to go against the church, so Galileo's thirst for the truth would put him at odds with the church many times in the future.

Though he didn't earn a degree in Pisa, he returned to Florence and gave mathematics lessons there and in Siena, while furthering his quest for knowledge. By 1588 he was back in Pisa, but now as a lecturer at the university. It is here that he is said to have conducted the famous demonstration disproving Aristotle's theory that heavier objects fall faster than lighter ones. He did it by dropping a cannonball and a wooden ball from the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

In 1592, when he was 28, Galileo was given a position as mathematician at the University of Padua, lecturing on a wide array of subjects such as geometry, astronomy, mechanics, fortifications, surveying, and optics. He invented a horse-driven pump to raise water. While in Padua, he met Marina Gamba and they had three children together.



Galileo giving a demonstration to the Venetian Dode.

In 1609, he learned of the invention of the telescope in Holland, and he constructed a vastly superior model that he used to make many astronomical discoveries. In 1610 he published *The Starry Messenger*. He discovered the moons of Jupiter and named them for his patrons, the powerful Medici family. They in turn made him the most famous scientist on earth, naming him "Chief Mathematician of the University of Pisa and Philosopher and Mathematician to the Grand Duke of Tuscany." That same year Galileo's friend, Giordano Bruno, was burned alive by the Roman Inquisition for his announcement that the universe was infinite.

In 1611 Galileo became a member of one of the first scientific societies, the Accademia dei Lincei. Galileo was the intellectual center of this group. He also added the society to his signature, signing Galileo Galilei Linceo. Galileo began to study the stars and planets with his newly invented telescope.

At the time, Galileo was required to teach the accepted theory of geocentrism, the belief that the earth was the center of the universe. Galileo's observations convinced him of the truth of Copernicus' heliocentric theory that the earth revolved around the sun, once again putting him at odds with Aristotle and the church. Galileo had to choose whether to protect himself or publish what he knew to be true. He chose to publish. He said, "I do not believe that the same God who has endowed us with senses, reason, and intellect has intended us to forgo their use. He would not require us to deny sense and reason."

Galileo enjoyed the protection of Grand Duke Cosimo II de' Medici and his successor, Ferdinando II de' Medici, for years. However in 1633, after publicly challenging Aristotle's church-supported view, Pope had enough and Galileo was summoned to face the Roman Inquisition. The Pope convinced the Grand Duke to withdraw his support of Galileo, and after months of interrogations and threats of torture, Galileo recanted what he knew to be true. He was sentenced to house arrest but allowed to continue his studies so long as he didn't contradict the church.

The greatest scientist in history died a blind and broken man in 1642, but his ideas and development of the scientific method outlasted the Pope, the Inquisition, and became the model for all future scientists to follow, making Galileo the father of modern science.

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COLUMBUS DAY DINNER DANCE

**ORDER SONS OF ITALY
IN AMERICA LODGE 1191**

The Order Sons of Italy's annual Columbus Day Dinner Dance was held on October 8, 2011, at the Western Hills Country Club. After cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, our Chairman, Joe Seta, introduced the Cincinnati Police Department Honor Guard for the Posting of the Colors.

Our Master of Ceremonies, Judge Ronald A. Panioto, then introduced Ms.

Elisa Jordheim who gave a magnificent rendition of the American and the Italian National Anthems.

The dinner consisted of ravioli, salad, filet mignon, and Fontina chicken breast with roasted fingerling potatoes and mixed vegetables followed by a scrumptious Italian Crème Cake.

This year's scholarship recipient was Josh Pastura. Josh is an extremely deserving student who is a sophomore at the University of Cincinnati. He was also presented with a new computer.

The Man of the Year was Chris Como who has been an outstanding member of the Order Sons of Italy for many years.

After the presentations, there was dancing to the delightful music of the Sound Body Jazz Orchestra.

At the end of the evening, a name was drawn for a high definition, large screen television set. The lucky winner was a surprised Debbie Dattilo.

A fantastic evening was had by all. Be sure to mark your calendar now for next year's gala event, which will be held on October 6, 2012.

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**Benedict
behind the Wheel**

Part I



After getting all of Pope Benedict's luggage loaded into the limo the driver notices the pope is still standing on the curb.

"Excuse me, Your Holiness," says the driver, "would you please take your seat so we can leave?"

"Well, to tell you the truth," says the pope, "they never let me drive at the Vatican when I was a cardinal, and I'd really like to drive today."

"I'm sorry, Your Holiness, but I cannot let you do that. I'd lose my job! What if something should happen?" protests the driver, wishing he'd never come to work this morning.

"Who's going to tell?" asks the pope with a smile.

Reluctantly, the driver gets in the back as the pope climbs in behind the wheel. The driver quickly regrets his decision when, after exiting the airport, the Pontiff floors it, accelerating the limo to 205 kph. (Remember, the pope is German.)

"Please slow down, Your Holiness!" pleads the worried driver, but the pope keeps the pedal to the metal until they hear sirens.

(To be continued.)

MEZZO-MEZZO® SOCIAL CLUB

**Mezzo-Mezzo Social Club
Pizza Party**

Can you smell it? Is your mouth starting to water? It is just around the corner, the Sixth Annual Mezzo-Mezzo Pizza Party.

No, this not the chain store bought pizza or that cardboard frozen pizza. This *family* and *friend*-filled event features Mezzo-Mezzo's handmade pizzas including their famous dessert pizzas.

Get your tickets early because this once-a-year event is highly sought after and is always sold out. This year's pizza party will be held at St. Rita's School for the Deaf on Saturday January 14, 2012, starting at 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 per person and \$15 per person twelve years old and under. Price includes all the food and drink you can eat.

Tickets are limited and must be purchased in advanced. For ticket sales, please contact a Mezzo-Mezzo member.

-Ryan Lehan

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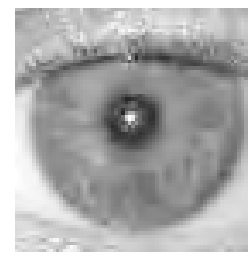
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Arriguccio Vasaio in Italia e el Malocchio Italiano

by Lydia Muti



A somewhat popular author recently completed her series of books that follow the increasingly dark challenges met by a young wizard in a world of fantastic magical adventures. What hasn't been told is that the young wizard and his close friends after completing work at their wizard school had to face a dark challenge recently while innocently taking a vacation in Italy. The practice of young people taking a holiday in Italy became very popular in the 1800s. So, let's say Arriguccio Vasaio, Ermine Contadino, and Ronaldo Subdoli set off for a well deserved vacation to relax in Sunny Italia.

They arrive at their destination, an out-of-the-way little town not far from the Amalfi coast, grab a late dinner, and retire to their hotel. Early next morning while they are enjoying the local morning coffee and a bite to eat, Ron notices a tall man leaning against the corner of a store across the street from them. He is wearing gray and black clothes despite the warm, sunny weather. Different shades of gray and black with a dark hood covering his head. His black and gray clothes give the appearance of some one rather ephemeral, ghostly. He is maintaining a sidelong glaring look straight at Arri. He has very dark, high arched eyebrows that almost meet in the center between his eyes. A young girl and boy playing a few yards away begin yawning. An older woman and a girl come up quickly, pick up the children, and walk away while looking back at the man with fearful eyes. Ron had called Arri and Ermine's attention to the man, and Arri swore he saw the girl spit right on the little boy just before snatching him up. That seems strange to all of them.

But then a woman comes up to their table, looks right at Arri, and speaks to him saying he is so, so adorable, and she

goes on about how he reminds her of her oldest son, who she mentions has died.

In a while the woman goes on her way, they finish up their coffee, and return to their lodgings to plan out the rest of the day. Almost immediately, however, Arri, feeling feverish and sweaty, comes down with a fearful fit of diarrhea. He tries eating some simple foods, but not fifteen minutes later he starts to vomit.

Naturally the three of them are alarmed, and before long Ermine researches the internet on her laptop computer. This leads her to contact some people in Cincinnati, Ohio, for guidance on what might be ailing her friend.

One person with whom Ermine begins a conversation says that this all sounds like the *Malocchio* to her, gives her some information about it, and notes that the claim *Malocchio* beliefs are held only in Southern Italy is not true; people up north just refrain from discussing it she insists. This person also says the many different regions in Italy often have their own particular folklore stories; "enough to make your head swim in confusion." When asked if her identity could be revealed in this article, this person emphatically insists no, definitely not. Perhaps our readers, nonetheless, know who this is.

A second contact, Josie Niemeier, provides Ermine with a wealth of insights about the *Malocchio*. Most of it turned out to be just what actually happened.

Ermine and Ron then ask around the town, and they discover a family that might be able to help. That evening, the family brings a young woman named Amalasantia, who is visiting from a beautiful town in Calabria where she is known as *la Strega dell'Crepuscolo* (twilight's sorceress), to help Arri. In hushed tones this woman tells them this is all a part of the constant struggle between good and evil,

like that between the fertile, wet lands and the deserts. This evil curse is literally turning Arri into a desert by draining the liquids from his body to kill him.

Amalasantia dismisses the idea that this hex came from the woman who dotted over Arri with all those compliments although these things usually would indicate just that. The envy or pride implied in the praise given somehow brings down the misfortunes of the evil eye, often unintentionally. Amalasantia says that the woman was just a diversion, a weak *lettatore* (one who can cast the spell) sent to distract them from the real source of the curse. To have caused such immediate and severe harm, this evil eye must have been cast instead by a *Stajaga*, a spirit of the dead come back to harm someone. Immediately Ermine and Ron think of their recent archenemy and his allies back home who, if possible, would want *vendetta* / revenge against all of them but especially against Arri.

Amalasantia begins by putting a simple cord around Arri's neck with three amulets strung on it: a slightly twisted horn (a *cornicello*), a fist with the thumb thrust between the fingers (the *mano fico*), and a replica of what looks like the Spiderman hand-gesture used as he shoots out his webs (Steve Ditko's design based he says on the *mano cornuto*).



Cornicello
or Cornetto



Mano Fico
(Fig Hand)



Mano
Cornuto

Amalasantia begins her incantations and mentions the importance of removing the curse before midnight, this being

(Article continues on the next page.)

The Value of Teamwork



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(*Malocchio Italiano*, continued from p. 6.)

a Friday, and that if the spell is not removed before the end of the first Friday that comes by, the curse could remain forever.

Just then a *Fiametta* (a banshee-like spirit) comes out of the neighboring woods into the empty yard behind them. Sent to hinder Arri's unhexing, it raises up a wailing cry that unnerves everyone in the neighborhood. So, Ron decides to go out and try to drive it away. Ermine makes him take her handbag despite his objections of maybe being seen carrying what looks like a girl's purse.

When Ron confronts the spirit, it turns its attention completely on him with a high-pitched screeching sound that grates on Ron to the extent that blood begins to trickle from his ears, eyes, and nose. It takes Ron a minute to focus his mind, but then he responds with protective spells to stop the pain, and he then casts a series of spells to chase off the harmful spirit. The last spell Ron uses finally forces the *fiametta* to shamble back into the woods.

Ron feels a moment of relief but too soon then is confronted with a more threatening challenge. A *mamm'Adraia* (a monstrous creature mentioned in Italian folklore that has several fierce heads on long necks that whip around in the air before striking their victim). Startled, Ron stumbles to the ground, Ermine's handbag falling from his grasp. Simply by *buona fortuna*, the fabled Golden Griffin Sword slips from the magical handbag, and with a few artful dodges and some swift slashes of the blade, Ron slays the monster.

Pulling himself together after these traumas, Ron returns to the house as Er-



Ermine and *la Strega dell'Crepuscolo*, Amalasunta, in a festival procession.

mine is holding a large bowl of water above Arri's head. Arri is sitting up in bed with Ermine standing to one side while Amalasunta is standing on the other side reciting prayers and making the sign of the cross over the water.

Ermine tells Ron that oil dropped three times into the water dispersed and didn't clump together. Just as Josie had said, Amalasunta was certain this confirmed that Arri had been cursed. Amalasunta, Ermine continues, then hung some garlic and red pepper in a couple of places around the room to keep pesky, trouble-making *munaceddi* and *folletti* (elf-like spirits) from interfering.

Ron sees one of Arri's favorite tee shirts spread out at the foot of the bed and asks about it. Ermine explains that Amalasunta sprinkled some of the water from the bowl onto the shirt while chanting some charms

in Italian over it. Amalasunta has Ron come over, stand beside her, and she gives him a large, lit candle to hold.

Now Amalasunta drops salt and needles into the bowl, takes up a pair of scissors, looks Arri in the eyes, and tells him she will unhex him with a healing formula learned from a very old grandmother on an exceptionally dark Christmas Eve many years before.

Occhi e contro occhi e perticelli agli occhi. Crepa la invidia e schiattono gli occhi!!

(Eyes against eyes and against the small openings to the eyes. Envy cracks and eyes burst!!)

. . . and Amalasunta cuts through the water in the bowl with the scissors.

Next morning, it's bright outside, and Arri wakes to a knock at the door. It's Ermine and Ron, looking chipper. Just as they are entering Arri's room, an ancient Franciscan friar who looks like Padre Pio comes to visit, having been sent by that same, friendly family who brought over Amalasunta. The friar speaks with Arri alone for a bit, then, on leaving suggests they stop in the neighborhood church and say a prayer of thanksgiving. He leaves, blessing them as he goes.

Ron then turns and asks Arri how he feels, to which he answers he hadn't thought about it, but he now feels great. Was it Amalasunta? the friar's blessing? or just a good night's sleep? Arri is sure he doesn't care, he's just glad to feel good.

Then the three went on to enjoy the rest of their holiday, which included the town's Spring Festival. All was well.



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The Risorgimento's Finest Moment

We saw many great moments in last August's *La Voce's* center, feature article on the Risorgimento, the movement that led through clever diplomacy and bloody battles to the reunification of Italy in the 1800s.

Certainly the rise to leadership in the Sardinian parliament of Count Cavour, a prince of foxes, was crucial. The return to Italy of Garibaldi and his Red Shirts from South America must also be considered pivotal. Let's not forget what many historians consider most important, the battle of Solferino, that battle with the French beside the Piedmontese defeating Austrian armies and winning Lombardy. In a sense, that got the movement rolling toward success. Then Cavour cleverly won over the French to accede to Piedmont's incorporation of Parma, Modena, the Romagna, and even Tuscany. Another great his-



torical moment would have to be the departure of Garibaldi and his Red Shirts from Genoa for Palermo, Sicily. Later, in another war against the Austrian Empire, a monumental accomplishment was achieved by winning the Veneto. And, without question, Vittorio Emanuele II's move into Rome has to be a great moment for the reunification of the nation.

There is one moment, however, that seems to capture all the spirit and virtue that came to be the best in the history of the Risorgimento. Illustrated

here is the meeting, after Garibaldi's lightning expedition through Sicily and Southern Italy, between King Vittorio Emanuele II and Garibaldi on a bridge right outside the little town of Teano where Garibaldi, asking for nothing for himself, handed over all his conquests with a simple handshake.

La Societa Di Fuscaldese Femminile



Rae Newell was at this event, helping receive the Thanksgiving offerings.

Helping Make Thanksgiving Possible for Others

by Marlene D'Andrea Vorherr

We are humbled and encouraged by the support given to needy families and organizations by many members of our society.

We contribute quarterly to the needs identified by local parishes and worthy benevolent endeavors highlighted by our members. Many of our members helped pack boxes with generous food supplies and turkeys the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

Helping hundreds of families enjoy the holidays brightened our spirits and ushered in the holiday for us.

We look forward to a healthy prosperous new year and wish the same for all our friends and families.



Marielle with Bob Vorherr, Ron, Lia, and Brian Schmidt help to fill the boxes.



Marielle Vorherr Schmidt with Lia Hergenrother and Ron Newell helping out.



Marielle with Bob, Lia, and Brian Schmidt filling boxes with food supplies.

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Dalmatia and Bringing to Mind a Shameful Time

by Mark D'Annunzio

When Julius Caesar was made governor of upper Italy, he began making plans to bring the eastern coast of the Adriatic Sea under the authority of the Roman people. The reason for this was that merchant shipping in that sea was subject to incessant pirating from several ports along the eastern coastline. Whereas that eastern coast has good ports often sheltered by numerous small islands close to the coast, across the sea the eastern coast of the Italian peninsula lacks ports and consists almost completely of plain beaches. Those beaches make invasions possible but allow no warships to storm out to protect the coast or merchants using the sea lanes.

10 febbraio



Julius was distracted from his planned action by the troubles of an important ally in Gaul, which led to his eight years of war there. Subduing that eastern seacoast in the Adriatic was left to his successor, Augustus Caesar, who filled in the blanks, so to speak, consolidating the lands around the Mediterranean into an empire.

During the Middle Ages and the Renaissance as *La Serenissima*, the Most Serene Republic of Venice, grew in influence, she established control over some of that eastern Adriatic coastline (by this time called *Dalmatia*) to protect her vital merchant enterprises. Over the years Italians continued to move there for economic reasons, and the original people there often became very Venetian in culture. Marco Polo, for example, may well have been Croatian, but he certainly considered himself Venetian.

When Napoleone brought Venice under French control, Dalmatia was handed to Austria as compensation. Much later, to

help persuade Italy to join their side in World War I, Britain and France promised not only German colonies for Italy but also the return of Dalmatia. After the war, no colonies were delivered but bits of Dalmatia were ceded to Italy.

During World War II Marshal Tito, leader of the communist Partisans, convinced the Allies that Dalmatian ports were being used to supply enemy Italian and German military forces in the Balkans. None of those Dalmatian ports were deep enough to accommodate the large freighters that would bring supplies, but not knowing that, for months the British carpet bombed those ports by day and

our air force, at night.

Zara (today *Zadar*), one example, a town of 24,000 was left with almost no stone remaining upon another. This "Dresden of the Adriatic" lost its landmarks and centuries-old works of art. Almost entirely Italian, the inhabitants who survived were forced to flee for their lives. As the war ended, the dispossessed Italians from all over Dalmatia and all those that hadn't been bombed fled to Italy (as many as 350,000) to escape anti-Italian, Communist violence specifically intended to clean out the Italians from Tito's new Yugoslavia.

For the last number of years in Italy now, February 10 has been an official day of national remembrance, recalling not only the struggles faced by those people but even more, remembering the shame that, fearing being labeled super-nationalist, the Italian government did nothing to help them. Most of these Italians, shunned in Italy, somehow continued on, finding welcome in a few countries such as Columbia and Argentina.



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Nostra Cucina Italiana

Celebrating Italy's Risorgimento
with a Special Cake



by Lydia Muti



Every fifty years, my grandmother brings out a bottle of Fra Angelico and this recipe to help celebrate the reunification of Italy. Now here it is for our readers.

Hazelnut Cake with Poached Pears

(A Piedmontese inspired, Muti Family Recipe)

For the Pears:

- 5 peeled, halved, and cored medium-size pears
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup sweet wine
- 1/2 cup white wine
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- 6-7 shots Fra Angelico liqueur

For the Cake:

- 3 eggs
- 1-1/2 cups well-ground hazelnuts
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/2 cup unsalted, room temp butter
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp vanilla

Grease a 9-inch pan while preheating the oven to 350°. In a saucepan, mix the pears, sugar, wines, water, vanilla, and half the Fra Angelico. Leave uncovered and simmer till the pears become tender and translucent. Immediately remove pears from the poaching liquid, setting them aside to cool. Have a shot of the leftover Fra Angelico.

Keep simmering the liquid to reduce it.

Next, for the cake, sift together in a large bowl the dry ingredients of ground hazelnuts, flour, baking powder, and salt. Set aside. Cream the sugar and butter till fluffy and light. One at a time, add in the eggs, beating well after each is added. Add in the vanilla and mix well. Then fold in the dry ingredient mixture, stirring till just combined.

Spread the batter in the pan you greased. Place the poached pears with the cut side facing down on the top of the cake in your choice of patterns. Then bake for 30 to 40 minutes and remove from the oven. (A fork inserted and removed should come out fairly clean.) Have another shot of the Fra Angelico.

Keep simmering the poaching liquid till it is reduced to about 1/2 cup. You'll want it to be syrupy thick and of a somewhat dark color.

Onto both the cake and the pears, brush the syrup. As soon as it looks absorbed by the cake, brush on more. Repeat till it is used up (same with the Fra Angelico, finish it off).

Enjoy at room temp or warm.

Our Tribute to JoJo

by Bernie Roma



She lived up the street just eight houses away. In high school she worked on her weekends downtown and got off the bus coming home right in front of Buddy LaRosa's

house. At a wedding reception they both attended, he asked this brown-eyed girl, Jo Ann (JoJo) Augustine, out for the first time, and she said yes. In 1946 she agreed to wear his letter sweater. They graduated two years later. Buddy

joined the Navy, and when he came home in 1952, they married.

It was great luck for Buddy that JoJo said yes to go on that first date, and it was great luck for all of us as well because she was, as he says, his rudder and his stability.

We all know of Buddy's deserved success and his outgoing personality. Just recently at this last May's CinItalia Festival, Buddy captivated the crowd with stories and answered questions as his younger son, Mark, put together for the audience some of their famous sandwiches. Few of us realized the importance his beloved JoJo made in his career and in his entire life.

It is said that because of her encouragement, Buddy built his pizza

parlor in Westwood into a nationally known enterprise yearly bringing in more than \$125 million in revenue. "She was a homebody, I'm always on the go," he has said, "total opposites." Opposites certainly attracted in this case, and helped both make a very good life together. Their older son, Michael, said, "She was great for bringing out the best in dad."

She will always be his rudder and his stability.



Our La Voce Italiana

All our members of the United Italian Society heartily thank Joe Santoro and Bernie Roma for their four and a half years in Team La Voce's Ad Group. Our advertisers pay the bulk of the costs involved in printing and mailing the newspaper, so Joe and Bernie did work to make *La Voce* possible that is absolutely essential.

Fortuna has smiled on us with two new people volunteering to continue the work of the Ad Group. Please go out of your way if necessary to congratulate Laura Westerbeck and Pamela Ciafardini Casebolt for taking up this important work. Without them this Italian voice would not be the same.

And let us also remember those whose thoughtful financial contributions kept us from piling up a deficit in order to produce this issue you are now reading. Our Patrons:

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- Jan. 14:** Mezzo-Mezzo Pizza Party at St. Rita's School for the deaf.
- Feb. 21:** Fat Tuesday Celebration.
- March 24:** Spring Scholarship Banquet and Raffle Drawing at the Cincinnati Museum Center.

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