



## Newsletter



**April/Aprile 2009**

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BOB VETRANO,	Communications (919) 848-1846

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**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:**

None this month.

## TIAHA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 7th, 2009 at Knights of Columbus, New Hope Road and Columbus Road, Raleigh, NC

**The minutes are not available at this time.**

## TIAHA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

March 18th, 2009 at Knights of Columbus, New Hope Road and Columbus Road, Raleigh, NC

**Board Members Present: Frank Ferraro, Dale Mancuso, Bob Caprioli, Sal Notarmaso, Jim Frederici, Charlie Morabito, John Christofaro.**

**Meeting Called To Order: 6:38pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.**

- **SPECIAL APPETIZERS SUPPLIED BY PRESIDENT FRANK:**

1. President Frank bought and brought into the meeting six different kinds of bread. That day (March 18<sup>th</sup>) was the Festival of St. Joseph (the after St. Patrick's Day). Frank took the breads to St. Joseph's Church and had the breads blessed by Monsignor John Williams.
2. That means that everyone who partook of the bread was truly blessed.
3. Sal "No Tomatoes" started sprouting wings he ate so much bread!!
4. THANK YOU, FRANK, FOR YOUR THOUGHTFULNESS AND GENEROSITY!!!

- **GUESTS INTRODUCED AND WELCOMED:**

1. **Al Dellechiale:** Al is a TIAHA brother who was in town temporarily, on his return from India. Welcome back, Al, and nice to meet you.
2. **Dan Danford:** Dan is a new member who was sworn in by Frank. Welcome to TIAHA, Dan.
3. **A very warm welcome to all of our guests!!! WELCOME TO TIAHA.**

- **GOOD & WELFARE:**

1. Tory Russo was rushed to the hospital. He thought it was a recurrence of cancer. It turned out to be a perforated colon. Tory is doing well.
2. Roy Cordato's daughter, Stephanie, has been accepted into the Cornell School of Medicine. She is going for a PhD. in neuropharmacology. WOW. Stephanie is a past TIAHA scholarship winner. The school is in New York City, not at the main Cornell campus in Ithaca, New York.
3. Jon Ferrante's wife, Vickie, has just returned to her job after having gone through two major surgeries. Jim Frederici ran into Jon in BJ's Wholesale just a few days prior to the TIAHA meeting and talked with Jon at length about his wife. It was great to hear she's recovered and returned to work.
4. Claudio Rossini (of Claudio's restaurant) was diagnosed with cancer of the liver. He's been given 1 – 2 weeks to live. President Frank spoke with Claudio's wife, Sandy. She told Frank that it's just day to day as to how Claudio feels. Our prayers and thoughts go out to Claudio and Sandy.
5. Peter Cari who's been undergoing chemo sessions is doing pretty well, according to President Frank. That's good news.
6. President Frank offered a prayer to everyone who's lost a job in this economy, and to anyone who may lose a job.

1. **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Annual Raffle:** TIAHA did not hold its annual raffle last fall, which generally brings in a couple thousand dollars. This is one of the reasons TIAHA ended 2008 with a deficit. Frank has mailed or personally handed packets of tickets to all TIAHA members. Frank's message to the membership: SELL, SELL, SELL!!! Each member has been given 10 tickets to sell. Please return money from ticket sales to Frank, and pick up more tickets to sell. Cash prizes will be awarded this year instead of merchandise. The money collected helps to fund TIAHA's charitable giving and the TIAHA Scholarship. Prizes will be awarded at the June general membership meeting. Ticket will cost \$5 each. The prizes will be \$500, \$300 and \$200.
2. **USO Feed The Troops:** Dale Mancuso reported that he is going to organize the next "Feed The Troops" meal at the RDU airport for either April 21<sup>st</sup> or May 5<sup>th</sup> (Tuesdays). Those are the days when the USO has the greatest number of troops moving through their facility at RDU airport. Details will be announced in the future.
3. **Healing Place For Women:** Dale Mancuso announced the date for cooking the meal for the women of The Healing Place For Women will be Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 40

women and children will be served. Cooking will begin at 8:00am. Come watch Sal “No Tomatoes” make his famous meatballs. Dale said he needs 5 guys to do the cooking. See Dale to sign up.

4. **Good & Welfare Chairman:** Bob Vetrano volunteered to be the next Good & Welfare Chairman. Thank you, Bob !!!
5. **Jersey Boys Play:** CANCELLED. Frank did not receive enough response by the deadline to get the group rates. The play is about Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. Frank needed a commitment from TIAHA members so he could get a head count. Frank wanted to buy tickets for either June 24<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> performances. Frank needed to know before tonight’s general meeting.
6. **TIAHA Scholarship:** Bob Giannuzzi reported that no applications have been received yet. The deadline for scholarship entries is the end of April. This year’s scholarship will be \$1,000.00. Bob will be happy to send a hard copy of the application to anyone who needs one, if they aren’t able to access the online application on the TIAHA web site.
7. **Adopt-A-Highway:** This was a huge success. Frank sent out a hearty “Thank you” to everyone to showed up to help, and to Mark Aliano, who is the Adopt-A-Highway chairman.
8. **Cary Spring Days and Cary Lazy Days:** TIAHA’s entry into the Cary Lazy Days celebration has been approved. Bob Vetrano volunteered to be the chairman for these events. Bob reported back at the general membership meeting that there are two events in downtown Cary: “Spring Days” on April 25<sup>th</sup>, and “Lazy Days” on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. These are one day affairs running from 11:00am till 5:00 or 6:00pm. Bob reported it won’t be possible to have 220-volt power hookups at the Cary Lazy Days event, so it won’t be possible to make any pizzas. Darn!!! There is still paperwork that Bob needs to submit to the Town of Cary within the next month. TIAHA missed the deadline for the Cary Spring Days, which is a new event, i.e. newer than, or in addition to, the Lazy Days in August.
9. **DUES ARE WAY OVERDUE, IF YOU HAVEN’T PAID ALREADY.**

- **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Knights of Columbus Hall Rental:** Frank reported the hall rental paid to the K of C by TIAHA each month will be \$80 / month, not the proposed \$100 / month, as was reported in previous meeting minutes. This is still an increase from last year from \$60 / month.
2. **Sons of Italy Charity:** Bob Giannuzzi reported that TIAHA donated \$100 to the fund created by the local Sons of Italy chapter for a softball league for autistic children.
3. **Movie Screening: “A Beautiful Memory: A Mother and Her Sons Against the Mafia”.** March 15<sup>th</sup>. See the ad in the March newsletter for details.
4. **TIAHA Installation Dinner:** Brother John Bon brought up the fact there should be an Installation Dinner in March to install the new board members. This was overlooked. Charlie Morabito made a motion to postpone the Installation dinner until April. The motion was seconded and approved.

- **COOKS & HELPERS FOR THIS EVENING’S MEAL:**

1. We all had an outstanding meal!! There was a team of cooks, headed by Jack Giamportone. Jack had help from George Bracco, Vince Salvaggio, and Bob Cenfetelli (who’s always there in the kitchen). The main part of the meal was some outstanding stuffed shells. Thank you one and all for another great meal!!

- **MARCH COOKS:** Frank asked for volunteers to cook the meal in April. Bob Vetrano, Capi and Carmine DiGrande volunteered.

- **SPECIAL NOTE:** Bob Vetrano had taken a pain pill before the meeting, which explains why he was volunteering for everything!!! Wait till that pain pill wears off.

- **50-50 RAFFLE:**

1. New member Dan Danford won the 50-50. His share of the pot was a respectable \$24.00!

**Meeting Adjourned: 7:36pm**

# TIAHA 2009 Board Members



Frank Ferraro  
President



Sal Nortarmasso  
Vice President



Bob "Capi" Caprioli  
Treasurer



Jim Frederici  
Secretary



Victor Cononi  
Sgt. At Arms



Bob Vetrano  
Past President



Vince Salvaggio  
Member at Large



John Bono  
Member at Large



Dale Mancuso  
Member at Large

by Mark Vogel

Every Easter when I was a boy I looked forward to my mom's Easter pie. An Italian tradition, "Easter Pie", as it is colloquially known, is a quiche-like, savory pie, filled with eggs, cheese, meat, and a variety of other possibilities. As a kid, all I knew or cared about was that it tasted great. Little did I know that decades later I would be dissecting the intricacies of this festive preparation.

Easter is preceded by Lent, a period of time hallmarked by fasting, particularly from meat on Fridays. Come Easter Sunday, it was time to celebrate, splurge and indulge. Hence, the rich, cheesy and meaty Easter Pie.

Easter Pie has many different names and even more recipes, depending on the section of Italy question.

In Naples it is known as "pastiera," and is made with ricotta cheese and whole grains of wheat to symbolize rebirth. It is also known as "pizza piena," (stuffed pie), and in Italian-American dialect, "pizza gain." "Pizza Rustica" is still another term and refers to the savory and rustic aspects of the pie. Italian meat pie is called a "pizzachino" which means pie of meat or meat pie in Italian.

Sicilians make a pie made from macaroni, pork, cheese and eggs. Calabrians favor ham, sausage, hard cooked eggs, mozzarella and ricotta. In Liguria, where it's referred to as "pasqualina," it's made from spinach, ricotta, cheese and eggs. In central Italy, from Umbria to Marches, the Easter Pie is more of a bread than a pie and is known as "torta di pasqua" or "pizza di pasqua."

You can certainly adjust the types and amounts of cheese and meat of a recipe to suit your taste. I would stick with soft or semi-soft cheeses since they will melt and bake better. Although you could add a finishing touch of some finely grated Romano or Parmesan for extra flavor. Other meat options include pepperoni, sopressa, pancetta, and sausage. Some people also prefer hard cooked eggs to the beaten or a mixture thereof. It really doesn't matter. Every variation tastes great. You can even use store-bought, pre-made pie crusts like my mother. To this day I'm still trying to get her to make her own dough, even though her store-bought crust didn't taste that bad. Easter pie is so good, even a touch of modern convenience can't detract from it.

Special thanks to Michael Fanelli for adding to this already-rich article.



**Triangle Italian American Heritage Association**  
*Fostering the Growth of Italian-American Heritage  
Through Service and Fellowship*

**APPLICATION FOR \$1000 SCHOLARSHIP**

Academic year: 2009 – 2010

Deadline: April 30th      Notification: May 31st

**Part I :**

Full Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Home Address : \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number : \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth : \_\_\_\_\_

Name of parents/guardians : \_\_\_\_\_

School you plan to attend or presently attend : \_\_\_\_\_

Present or intended field of study : \_\_\_\_\_

Honors : \_\_\_\_\_

Other points of consideration, e.g. extracurricular activities, service, interests, sports, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a **copy** of your transcript (HS or college) and SAT/ACT scores (where applicable) to secure the completion of this application.

**Part II :**

Please provide an essay (500-750 words) on a personal experience which demonstrated or generated pride in your Italian heritage. It should be submitted on separate sheets of paper, typed and double-spaced.

Eligibility: You must be enrolled this fall as a full time student at an institute of higher learning (post-high school) and a resident of Wake, Durham, Johnston, Orange or Harnett County. Direct descendents of TIAHA members in good standing regardless of residence are also eligible. You must be at least 1/8 of Italian descent. Past winners are not eligible.

Signature of applicant : \_\_\_\_\_ Date : \_\_\_\_\_

My signature attests that to the best of my knowledge the information provided is accurate and that my essay is my own work.

*Upon completion, this application plus any additional information should be mailed to:*

Mr. Robert J. Giannuzzi, TIAHA Scholarship Chairman  
1200 Wedgeland Drive, Raleigh, NC 27615



8/2008

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## Scoppio del Carro

by [Anthony Parente](#)

The Scoppio del Carro (Explosion of the cart) is a Florentine [tradition](#) that is held every year on [Easter](#) Sunday. People gather around the Piazza del Duomo to witness this explosion, which takes place at noon.

This annual event has a long standing tradition that dates back to the first Crusade in 1099. History tells us of a Florentine nobleman by the name of Pazzino de Pazzi who was the first to climb the walls of Jerusalem carrying the flag of the crusaders. For his courage Goffredo di Buglione, the commander and chief of the crusade, rewarded Pazzino with stone splinters from the Holy Sepulchre. When he returned to [Florence](#) he donated these splinters to the city.

Every Easter morning a procession is held in the city of Florence. Starting at the church of the SS Apostoli an elaborate cart, which is called the Brindellone, is pulled by oxen decorated with flowers. The oxen pull the cart through the city until it reaches the Piazza del Duomo. Once it reaches the Piazza the oxen are unhooked from the cart and a wire is attached to it. The wire extends from the cart all the way to the [Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore](#). On the wire in the Cathedral is a rocket that has the appearance of a white dove, which is referred to as the colombina. During the celebration of Easter mass the fuse is lit by a fire that was created by the very same splinters that Pazzino donated to the city and the dove is sent on its way to ignite the cart setting off a spectacular explosion.

According to popular legend if all goes well and the cart is exploded it will mean a very prosperous year for the Florentines.

## Buona Pasqua! - Happy Easter

For Americans who are accustomed to coloring Easter eggs and baskets with chocolate bunnies, Italian Easter is a change of pace.

Church, family, friends and food are the core of this celebration. [Carnevale](#) signals the beginning of Lent and Easter celebrates the end of the season of fasting and penance.

"Christmas at home and Easter with whomever you wish" is an old Italian saying, but traditional Italians often celebrate Easter with a huge family meal on Easter Sunday - the eating often starts at noon - and gatherings with friends wait until Easter Monday.

[Pizza Rustica](#) or Easter Pie is made in many regions to mark the end of meatless meals. Served on Saturday afternoon or before dinner on Easter Sunday, this meat pie is a delicious treat at any time of the year.

Breads are also a big part of the festivities and Pani Pasquali or [Italian Easter Bread](#) comes in many shapes and sizes.

[Abbacchio Al Forno](#), roasted baby lamb is a favorite choice for Easter dinner. Many vegetables and pastas and occasionally a lasagna complete the meal. One of my favorites is [carciofi ripieni](#), stuffed artichokes.

A special treat for grownups and kids of all ages are the *uova di Pasqua*, Italian hollow chocolate Easter eggs. Perugina or Kinder eggs are the most popular but any hollow chocolate egg will do. Each egg holds a surprise. Specialty candy shops in Italy allow you to supply the gift.

In the 15th century the nobility encased works of art and other extravagant items in these enormous chocolate eggs. The modern versions are a bit more modest, but may still hold jewelry or other valuable gifts. Some romantics have been known to hide an engagement ring inside for a sweet proposal on Easter morning.

Easter is a celebration of Spring, rebirth and the end of a long Lenten fast and a longer winter. In Italy or in America **it is a time for peace, hope and joy**. Eating good food, sharing the holiday with family and friends and enjoying the new warmth of the longer days is a wonderful way to mark the end of another winter - Italian style!

Buona Pasqua!

## NIAF/Abruzzo Relief Fund

The National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) has established a special **NIAF/Abruzzo Relief Fund** to help the victims and their families who perished from the recent earthquake in the town of L'Aquila and other small towns in central Italy in the region of Abruzzo.

"NIAF extends its sincerest condolences to the victims and their families suffering from the recent earthquake that struck residents as they slept. This tragic disaster has claimed the lives of innocent people. Words cannot convey the Foundation's sense of loss for the victims. Our hearts and prayers are with them and the rescue workers, who are frantically trying to save those who remained trapped in the debris," NIAF President **Joseph V. Del Raso, Esq.**, said. Del Raso's ancestors trace their roots to the region of Abruzzo.

Many members of the NIAF Board of Directors including **Gabriel A. Battista, John F. Calvelli, Arthur J. Furia, Esq.** and **Anthony A. Marnell II** also trace their heritage to the region of Abruzzo. The ancestors of the Honorable **Pat Tiberi** of Ohio, who serves as co-chair of the Italian American Congressional Delegation of the 111th United States Congress, emigrated from the Abruzzo region to the United States.

The earthquake, with a magnitude of 6.3 reported by the U.S. Geological Survey, has resulted in the deaths of hundreds of individuals with more than 1,500 people injured and many people still missing. With residents still buried under the debris of the collapsed buildings, rescue workers continue to work diligently to save the remaining trapped victims. Between 30,000 and 40,000 people are believed to have lost their homes and Italian authorities are working to find them shelter before nightfall.

### Online:

Individuals, corporations and foundations who wish to donate to the **NIAF/Abruzzo Relief Fund** can make their donations by going to the NIAF web site and use their secure form.

### By Check and Mail:

Donations can be made by check payable to the **NIAF/Abruzzo Relief Fund**.

Kindly mail to:

### **NIAF/ Abruzzo Relief Fund**

The National Italian American Foundation  
1860 19th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20009

### Where do my donation dollars go?

- Every dollar contributed will go directly to the victims

**All donations are tax deductible.**

### Where can I find names of the victims?

Anyone interested in receiving news on the victims may contact the Italian Department of Civil Protection as follows:

Telephone number: 011/39 06 68201

E-mail address: [salaoperativa@protezionecivile.it](mailto:salaoperativa@protezionecivile.it)



### BOCCE BLAST for CF 09

Cystic fibrosis is a chronic disease that effects the lungs and digestive systems. Most CF patients take twenty to thirty pills a day and spend hours inhaling medicines to keep their lungs clear. It doesn't ever get easier for them. **WE NEED YOUR HELP TO BLAST CF.**

There are approximately 30,000 children and young adults in the United States today suffering with the genetic disease (CF). An estimated 1 in 31 Americans is an unknowing, carrier of the defective gene that causes CF.

Come and join us as we "Roll to **Cure CF**" at the **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bocce Blast**. This tournament promises to be a successful and exciting event for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. It will be held on April 26, 2009 11-4pm at the **Football Field behind Cardinal Gibbons High School , 1401 Edwards Mill Road, Raleigh, NC 27607.**

**I hope that you will join us in a tireless fight to cure CF by becoming a sponsor and playing in the classic or by making a donation to the CF BOCCE BLAST.**

We want to personally thank those of you who joined our team last year and those who will come on board this year. We are a winning team in the fight against Cystic Fibrosis. With your help, we will find a cure and we will win. This is the second year of the tournament, and with your help it will be a successful one. Please forward this to anyone you think might want to help with this fight.

For information a registration/pledge form, please contact Elana O'Connell at [BocceBlast4CF@aol.com](mailto:BocceBlast4CF@aol.com) or call 919 219-0373

Thanks in advance!

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## Being Italian

### An insight into Italian stereotypes

**Spaghetti, mafia, musical accent, gestures, romantic, loud, fashion, chaos - these are all words often used to describe Italians. How much truth is there in the stereotype? By Nicoletta Di Bartolomeo**

This article is being written by one Italian, me. If you ask 10 more Italians to try and explain who they are, you will get 10 different answers; but then again we do like a good argument over some even better food! I will try and give you some insight into the Italian soul and clarify some common misunderstandings that foreigners have about us.

### So what's true in the stereotype?

Stereotypes always tend to have some truth mixed in with a few generalisations and a bit of exaggeration. Let's see what's true in the Italian stereotype.

- Spaghetti and pasta in general are sacred. You cannot take pasta away from an Italian meal otherwise it won't be complete. A typical Italian meal usually includes:
  1. Starter ( *primo*): pasta
  2. Main course ( *secondo*): fish or meat with salad
  3. Fruit or dessert ( *dolce*)
  4. Coffee

Here we start running into the first problems, there are some big regional differences in Italy, so you might find risotto replacing pasta in some places!

- A good meal should always be shared with someone else. It is a way to share conversation and jokes, forget about work for a couple of hours and enjoy life. Be assured, an Italian will always find the time to eat properly.
- The *Mafia* is real: we are not proud of it but it does exist, especially in the South and the island of Sicily. Obviously, not every Italian is a Mafioso and most will feel offended and insulted if you use the term, even when if you mean it as a joke.
- Yes, the way we speak is completely original. The most important element of communication are the gestures: the way we move our hands, hold our heads, move our shoulders, our facial expressions, as well as the way we use our eyes and mouths to make ourselves understood. We simply cannot talk without our hands. If they are busy doing something else, we start moving shoulders or other parts of the body for emphasis. Italians speak very loudly in public whether on the bus, in the street or on the phone. Don't worry, we are not all deaf. A lot of foreigners think we are fighting when we talk that way but it's just the way we are.
- We like to travel a lot, but do not speak many foreign languages - maybe because we trust body language more than words.
- Yes we do enjoy romance (just like everyone else - more or less) and maybe the stereotype of the Italian romantic lover is not completely dead. An Italian guy will never let a girl go home unescorted. Also, the macho ideal is still alive and well in Italian culture.
- We are also fashion victims: you can recognise Italians by the way they dress from the head to feet (strictly black Dolce & Gabbana sunglasses; Calvin Klein boxers; Levi's jeans; Gucci handbags; tanned skin all year long; perfect make up). We will dress stylishly for every possible occasion. You won't ever see an Italian wearing sporting short pants combined with long socks: it's simply against our fashion rules (let alone our sense of style)!
- We are chaotic. Nothing in Italy is well organized or easy-to-use. You have to fight to get the smallest scrap of information. Don't be surprised to see Italians fighting to get into the buses or jumping the queue to be served first at the coffee bar. Italy's slow-moving and stressful bureaucracy has made us more pushy and resourceful.

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

## So, what's wrong with the stereotype?

Italians tend to feel that they are unfairly stereotyped and get offended by how they are perceived by foreigners. The stereotype is actually true but being Italian takes a lot more than that - we are not really pasta and pizza chomping mafiosi.

- We are a generous, sunny and communicative people. We like to smile; we love to talk - preferably over a one or two hour meal followed by a good cup of coffee. This doesn't imply that we don't take work seriously or that we work less than in other countries. A typical working day in Italy lasts for about 8 hours, from 8/9 a.m. to 5/6 p.m., sometimes until 7 p.m., depending on how many breaks have been taken during the day. We feel that work is not everything in life, that's why we spend so much time on coffee or cigarette breaks.
- Concerning work, what distinguishes Italians the most from other nationalities is that they tend to take on their first jobs later in life – usually after graduation from university (typically at 23 to 25 years old).
- Italians stay at their parents' home until they have saved up enough money to pay for a flat. This can take a while, which is why many Italians leave their homes when they're already 30 years old. This, by the way, has earned Italians a reputation of being mummy's boys – yet another stereotype caused by misunderstanding between cultures.
- Family is the most important thing in our lives and male as well as female roles are based on it. Men should be strong and protective, whereas women should be gentle and feminine. Nevertheless, this does by no means imply that women should stay home taking care of household and children while men are supposed to be the main breadwinners. Lots of Italian women have jobs and are independent as well!
- The country of Italy is made up by many different regions and provinces - each one with its own distinctive dialect, culture and history. Inter-regional relations can be quite tense during election times or even just during local football matches. But we are all totally committed to our national football team (the *Squadra Azzurra*). When the World Cup is being played, we forget about the differences between the North and the South, Milan and Rome.

We are a strange and wonderful country that is well worth a visit - you may like it or not, but you will definitely be surprised!

# Retired?

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## Social customs in Italy

### Traditions and habits

**All countries have peculiar social customs and Italy is no exception. As a foreigner you'll probably be excused if you accidentally insult your host, but you may not be invited again.**

However, Italians are much more formal than most foreigners imagine and newcomers should tread carefully to avoid offending anyone.

### Greetings in Italy

When you're introduced to an Italian, you should say 'good day' ( *buongiorno* ) and shake hands (a single pump is enough). 'Hello' ( *ciao* ) is used among close friends and young people, but it isn't considered polite when addressing strangers unless they use it first. Women may find that some men kiss their hand, although this is rare nowadays.

When being introduced to someone in a formal situation, it's common to say 'pleased to meet you' ( *molto lieto* ). When saying goodbye, you should shake hands again. It's also customary to say 'good day' or 'good evening' ( *buonasera* ) on entering a small shop, waiting room or lift, and 'good day' or 'goodbye' ( *arrivederci* ) or, when addressing only one person, *arrivederla* ) on leaving (friends say *ciao* ).

*Buongiorno* becomes *buonasera* any time after the lunch break (around 1pm), although if you choose *buonasera* (or *buongiorno*), don't be surprised if the response isn't the same. Good night ( *buonanotte* ) is used when going to bed or leaving a house in the evening.

Titles should generally be used when addressing or writing to people, particularly when the holder is elderly. *Dottore* is usually used when addressing anyone with a university degree ( *dottoressa* if it's a woman) and employees may refer to their boss as director ( *direttore* ) or *presidente*. Professionals should be addressed by their titles such as professor ( *professore* ), doctor ( *dottore* ), engineer ( *ingegnere* ), lawyer ( *avvocato* ) and architect ( *architetto* ).

If you don't know someone's title, you can use *signore* (for a man) or *signora* (woman); a young woman may be addressed as *signorina*, although nowadays all women tend to be addressed as *signora*.

### Kissing in Italy

Italian families and friends usually kiss when they meet, irrespective of their sex. If a lady expects you to kiss her, she offers her cheek. Between members of the opposite sex the 'kiss' is deposited high up on the cheek, never on the mouth (except between lovers!) and isn't usually really a kiss, more a delicate brushing of the cheeks accompanied by kissing noises.

There are usually two kisses – first on the right cheek, then on the left. It's also common in Italy for male relatives and close male friends to embrace each other.

### Lei & Tu

When talking to a stranger, particularly older Italians, you should use the formal form of address ( *lei* ). Don't use the familiar form ( *tu* ) or call someone by their Christian name until you're invited to do so. Generally the older or (in a business context) senior person invites the other to use the familiar *tu* form of address and first names.

The familiar form is used with children, animals and God, but almost never with your elders or work superiors. However, Italians are becoming less formal and younger people often use *tu* and first names with colleagues. It's customary to use *lei* in conversations with shopkeepers, servants, business associates and figures of authority (the local mayor) or those with whom you have a business relationship, e.g. your bank manager, tax officials and policemen.

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

## Invitations

If you're invited to dinner by an Italian family (a rare honour), you should take along a small present of flowers, pastries or chocolates. Gifts of foreign food or drink aren't generally well received unless they're highly prized in Italy such as single malt whisky. Some people say you must never take wine, although this obviously depends on your hosts and how well you know them. If you do bring wine, it's unlikely to be served with the meal, as the wine will have already been chosen.

Flowers can be tricky, as some people associate them with certain things (e.g. chrysanthemums for cemeteries), but a florist will be able to advise you. It's common for Italians to send a small note or gift the following day to thank people for their hospitality or kindness.

Italians say 'good appetite' (*buon appetito*) before starting a meal. If you're offered a glass of wine, wait until your host has made a toast (*salute!*) before drinking. If you aren't offered another drink, it's time to go home. You should, however, go easy on the wine and other alcohol, as if you drink to excess you're unlikely to be invited back! It's common in Italy to invite people to come after dinner (*dopo cena*), e.g. from 9.30pm, for dessert and wine.

## Dress code in Italy

Italians dress well and seem to have an inborn sense of elegance and style. Presentation and impression are all-important to Italians and are referred to as *bella presenza* or *bella figura* (literally 'beautiful presentation or figure'). Italians generally dress well and appropriately, tending to be more formal in their attire than most northern Europeans and North Americans.

However, although they rarely loaf around in shorts or jogging pants, they also tend not to go to the other extreme of tuxedos and evening gowns. Italians judge people by their dress, the style and quality being as important as the appropriateness for the occasion. Italians consider bathing costumes, skimpy tops and flip-flops or sandals with no socks strictly for the beach or swimming pool, and not the street, restaurants or shops. (Italians believe that many foreigners are shameless in the way they dress and act in public and have no self respect.)

They also choose the occasions when they wear jeans carefully, as these aren't thought appropriate for a classy restaurant or church.

*Bella figura* refers not only to the way you look, but also to the way you act and what you say. It's similar in some ways to the oriental concept of 'face', and Italians must look good and be seen in the best light, always appearing to be in control and not showing ignorance or a lack of *savoir-faire*. It's important not to show disrespect or ridicule an Italian, even if it means biting your tongue on occasions.

## Other Customs

You should introduce yourself before asking to speak to someone on the telephone. Although the traditional siesta is facing a battle for survival, it isn't recommended to telephone between 2 and 4pm, when many people have a nap (*pisolino*). If you must call between these times, it's polite to apologise for disturbing the household.

If you have a business appointment with an Italian, he will expect you to be on time, although he will invariably be five or ten minutes late. If you're going to be more than five minutes late, it's wise to telephone and apologise. Italians usually exchange business cards (*biglietti de da visita*) on business and social occasions.

# MARK A. LA MANTIA

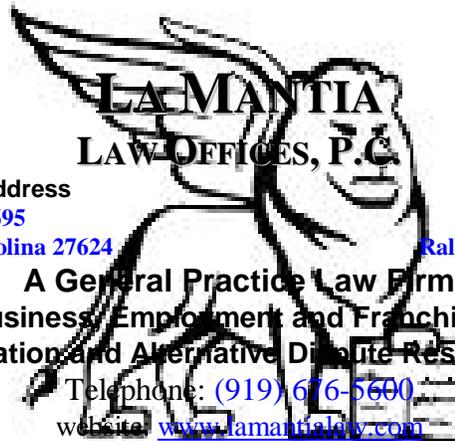
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10/2008

**ON A PERSONAL NOTE:**



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:**

Rudy and Nora DeFrancisci  
Joseph and Nina Miracola  
Bruno and Patricia Pagnani



**BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:**

**MEMBERS**

Tom Bauso  
Joe Catarino  
John Felice  
Jack Petrarca  
Jim Polito  
Carmine Sacchitello  
Bob Vetrano

**SIGNIFICANT OTHERS**

Rose Marie Berthiaume  
Vickie Ferrante  
Molly Ferraro



**EDITOR:**

Is something newsworthy?  
Let us know, send it to

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**Triangle Italian-American Heritage Association  
P.O. Box 20266, Raleigh, North Carolina 27619**

**TIAHA UPCOMING EVENTS**

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**April 15<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday), 6:30 PM - GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** Knights of Columbus, New Hope and Columbus Roads, Raleigh.

**May 5<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday), 6:30 PM – EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:** Knights of Columbus, New Hope and Columbus Roads, Raleigh.

**May 20<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday), 6:30 PM - GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** Knights of Columbus, New Hope and Columbus Roads, Raleigh.