



## Newsletter

**November/Novembre 2008**

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**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:**

Dear TIAHA Brothers,

As we come into the Thanksgiving and Christmas season, we can reflect on a year that saw TIAHA contribute to our community more than ever before. And we are certainly not done yet.

On Sunday November 30<sup>th</sup>, the USO at RDU expects up to 300 members of our Armed Forces to pass through on their way back to their duty station after spending their Thanksgiving Holiday at home with their families. TIAHA will be there to provide food and support to these American Heroes.

We need your help in volunteering to cook (starting at 8AM at Healing Place for Women off Ebenezer Church Rd.), and to serve food from 11AM to approximately 5PM or so in 2 hour shifts (or more if you can). Please contact myself or Dale Mancuso to sign up.

The initial Christmas presents have been bought for the eight young girls we are sponsoring this year at Oxford House Orphanage. On Thursday December 11<sup>th</sup> we will meet at the Starbucks on Creedmoor Rd at Stonehenge between 5 and 5:30. We then travel to Oxford for their annual Christmas Dinner and gift giving event. We really did not have a good turnout last year so I am asking as many of you as possible to put that evening on your schedule and come up to this very heartwarming event. Please bring your spouses and children as well.

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All the girls put together their Santa wish lists and we got all the items on their lists as well as some items for their cottage, with the exception of one item. Each girl put a Nintendo DS game station on their list. The cost is between \$100 to \$129 for each Nintendo. This would be over and above the money we already put out from our "charity money" raised at International Festival, St. Raphael's, Golf Tournament, etc.

We can, however purchase the Nintendo's without dipping into our general bank account. John Colombo has a check from his K of C Council for \$250; John and his wife Mary will donate \$100; Dale Mancuso and Loraine will put out the \$129 for one; my children Cassandra and James will donate \$25 each. That means that we already have \$525 of the \$750 or so that we need to pull this off. Some other folks have said they would contribute as well, but we're not sure how much yet. I'm asking for all of you to try to raise, or donate, some money from other sources. Please let me know what you can do.

Our Christmas Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. Because the Board members have been out pounding the streets in trying to get the best "Bang for our Buck" the exact location has not yet been decided, but we will have our decision by next Wednesday's meeting and will contact everyone via e-mail and/or phone later this week. It's always a great evening out with our wives, girlfriends, etc.

Adopt-A-Highway will be Saturday Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>. We meet at 8:30 at Brassfield Elementary school with Mark Aliano's wife Kathleen cooking breakfast immediately following. If we have a fairly good turnout, it takes less than an hour.

And don't forget that our wives, girlfriends, etc. are invited to our December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. I will be cooking a few main courses (I could use some help) with food items we will get from U.S. Foods. We have a \$300 credit with them based on mistakes that made in food orders for Int. Festival. We need members to supply the rest of the menu. If your last name begins with A through L, bring an appetizer or salad dish. Letters M through Z bring a desert.

Holidays are for Family and for giving. Please try to attend as many of the above mentioned Holiday events as possible with your TIAHA Family.

Happy Thanksgiving to all,

Frank

## TIAHA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 4th, 2008 at Knights of Columbus, New Hope Road and Columbus Road, Raleigh, NC

Frank F, Dale M, Bob V, Victor C, John B, Capi

1. **USO** : Dale has been in contact with the USO and they are requesting that we go feed the troops on Sunday. Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> since this is the day that they will be the busiest as far as number of troops that will pass through RDU.
  - We will feed approximately 270 troops
  - Cooking will be at 8 AM at the Healing Place for Women off Ebenezer Church Rd.
  - Serving at RDU will be from 11 to around 5 or so
  - Menu will be baked ziti, meatballs, and bread
  - We will get most of the stuff from Roma foods. We are working with Brother Vinnie Caldaro to get the food either donated or at a discounted price. We'll get the meatballs at Sam's, and rolls at BJ's
  - **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR COOKING AND SERVING**
    - Frank to put roster and requests in newsletter and via e-mail
  - We need all members to try to get in touch with various newspapers, TV stations, etc to get some PR people down there
  
2. **OXFORD HOUSE** John Colombo has (as usual) been working with Chris at Oxford house and they have provided us with the information and Christmas wish list for the six girls in Eller Cottage that we will be providing gifts for this year
  - TIAHA Has given a check to John for \$1200 to purchase the items on the girls' lists
  - In addition to what's on the list, all girls are wishing for Nintendo DS systems.
  - These cost \$129 each which would be an additional expense over the \$1200 but we could cover this cost via extra donations and TIAHA members who would like to sponsor a girl or part of the cost of a Nintendo
    - John Colombo and wife Mary will donate \$100
    - Dale Mancuso and Lorraine will pay for a Nintendo
    - Frank's kids James and Cassandra have pledged \$25 each
    - John is getting some money from his Knights of Columbus
    - So far that makes about \$400 or so. We only need around \$750 to pull this off and we're more than halfway there.
  - We need to get members to solicit and contribute money to cover the cost of these Nintendos. If we can pull it off, TIAHA will add extra money to buy games for them
  - We strongly need people too
  
3. **TIAHA CHRISTMAS DINNER** December 7<sup>th</sup> We have had some information provided from Board members on a few restaurants regarding menu prices etc.
  - A couple of restaurants were ruled out because of prohibitive price, location, etc
  - We need more info and must make a decision by the November meeting
  - Board members will do more research and we decided to have a "special" Board meeting prior to the general meeting on Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> to go over our findings
  
4. **CHRISTMAS MEETING WITH WIVES, ETC.** Frank will get our US Food contact from Bob V. to call regarding our \$300+ credit and order some main course dinner stuff such as Veal, Beef, Shrimp, a Pasta, etc.
  - Frank will cook main course items (he will need some help)
  - Members will be divided by 1<sup>st</sup> letter of last name and asked to bring salads, appetizers, and desserts
  
5. **NEW OFFICERS FOR 2009** Al Cellini, chairman of Nominating Committee has provided an initial list recommendations for next years officers and has sent out an e-mail as such.

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6. **CHRISTMAS COOKIES** Vinnie Caldaro and Roma foods sent Frank a list of Christmas cookies they sell in various size portions and varieties.
  - Frank to bring it up at next meeting to gauge interest level in purchasing cookies for members to purchase or for the various events we will be participating in over the Holidays
  
7. **N.C. STATE STUDENT BOWLING** Bob V. Brought up that these kids practices at the same bowling ally where the guys bowl
  - They are not a university funded team and receive no money or school support
  - A motion was made to donate \$100 to the team for their expenses, etc. The motion was seconded and passed
  - Bob V. to get us some PR for this
  
8. **HEALING PLACE FOR WOMEN** These folks are doing quite a bit for us in regards to allowing us to use their facility to cook for the USO and also let us have full access to spices and other cooking needs we may have.
  - It was agreed that we need to go there and cook for these folks as soon after the Holidays as possible
  
9. **DUES, DUES, DUES** Capi gave a report that only 12 members have paid dues so far. That is a sin!
  - Board members will help to get after all members to pay dues
  - We will also put something in the newsletter.



## TIAHA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

October 15th, 2008 at Knights of Columbus, New Hope Road and Columbus Road, Raleigh, NC

President Frank Ferraro called the meeting to order at 6:47 pm. Meeting began with **Pledge of Allegiance** to the American Flag.

- Guests

- **Sal Frangiosa, padre di Joe Frangiosa.** Really great to have one of our Founding Fathers as guest.
- **Chris Richardson** Director of the **Masonic Home for Children** aka **Oxford Orphanage.** **Chris** announced that this will be our tenth Christmas of support for that most worthwhile institution. With great feeling and sincerity, he thanked us for our caring and our generosity.

- New Members

- The following candidates were sworn in and now enjoy all the rights and privileges of full membership:
  - **Tory Russo**
  - **Gianfranco Bocchetti**
  - **George Bracco**
- Welcome aboard, *Fratelli.* Good to have you with us!!!!

- Good & Welfare

- **Joe Larotonda's daughter** is getting married!!!! Congratulations all around!!!
- **Peter Cari** BEAT LUNG CANCER. *Bravissimo!!!!!!* And good to continue having you around.
- **Tony & Ginny Aiello,** and **Jim & Paula Fredericci** are vacationing in Italy. Fantastic!!!
- **Vin Doria** is once again gainfully employed.
- Our *Presidente* is not. **Frank Ferraro** is looking. Good luck *Francesco.*
- **Al Dellechaire** was home from India for a brief visit. He reports that his work is going well over there and, thank God, he is not near the areas that are experiencing unrest, etc. Frank had invited his wife, **Flo,** to our Picnic.
- **Tony DiFede** is now working in Wilmington. We wish all the best.

- Dues

- It is October, and dues are due!
- Dues are \$45.; dues are \$35. if the member contributes several hours of work during the year; dues are \$22.50 if member is over 62 years of age.

- Old Business

- **Joe Frangiosa** made a pitch for upcoming SCANNING, which SAVED HIS LIFE fairly recently.
- Oxford House
  - This year we will be buying for **8 girls, age 5 to 10 y o.**
  - In addition to giving everything on their lists, extra gifts, toys people do not need, donations, will go to the cottage, and toward such things as the Durham Bulls Game, etc.
  - **Thursday, 11 Dec** we will meet at Starbuck's in Stonehenge Shopping Center and car pool/caravan up to Oxford. To make up for last year's poor turn out, we are asking and hoping for a good turn-out
  - **John Colombo** has offered to again chair this most important undertaking. He will soon have the girl's names, sizes, "wish" lists, etc. He will make the information available to any member interested in buying (everything) for one of the girls.
  - **John** will also be forthcoming with information and details about the WRAPPING.
  - **John Bono** will again be our most distinguished **Santa Claus.**
- **Sal Notarmasso** found his (Mother's) rolling pin!
- **Christmas Meeting,** Dec 17, will include wives, girlfriends, significant others, etc. It will also be Pot Luck. More detail to follow from **Frank.**
- **Christmas Dinner** is scheduled for Sunday, 7 Dec; time and restaurant to be determined. That date however, may change: it was announced that the Italian Women's Club and a K of C Lodge (no one knew which one) will also be having Christmas celebrations that day.
- **USO Support the Troops** may be Wednesday, the day before Thanksgiving. There are 4 "shifts": cooking 8-11, serving 11-1, 1-3, 3-5. This wonderful undertaking is being chaired, for the second time, by **Dale Mancuso.**

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

- **New Business**
  - **Bob Giannuzzi** reminded that tomorrow, Thursday, 16 Oct, will be the author, **Justin Catonoso**.
  - The Board decided to not sponsor/fund bringing over an Italian composer, as had been suggested.
  - It is now time to form a **Nominating Committee**. The following generously volunteered to do this important work: **Al (the Padre) Cellini, Vince Conzola, and Jersey Mike Kuharcik**. Thanks guys!
  - A Clean-up of the **Storage Shed** will be coming up soon.
  - **Mark Aliano** announced that the last Adopt-a-Highway of the year will be **22 Nov**.
  - We still do not know our “take” of the **St. Raphael’s Festival**.
  - **Jack Giamportante & Al Cellini** (unbeknownst to each other!) and their families attended an **Italian Buona Festa** in Charlotte.
  - **Jack** brought copies of some information about genealogy organizations for us. He also had some information from his company about the “e-comedy”!!!
  - **Jackie Gee** also invited everyone, and families, to **Haunted House** in his and **Paula’s** Basement. 24-25 Oct, from 6 to 9. Something for children and adults, and somewhat of a fund-raiser. Their address is 9152 Fawn Hill Court, 27617.
  - **Vin Doria** will be doing a 5K walk to raise funds for the **Boys & Girls Club of Wake Forest**.
- **50-50**
  - **Sal Frangiosa** picked the winning number 326669, held by **Bobby (Gee) Giannuzzi**.
- **Meeting Adjourned** followed by an **outstanding dinner** prepared by **The Cary Guys: Andy Caamano, Tommy Berthiaume, Joe Miracola, Joe Pugliese, & Tommy Spampinato**.

Respectfully submitted

**Ron Little**

## Board Positions are open for 2009....

If you are interested in being on the TIAHA board please contact:

Al (Padre) Cellini

(919) 266-4879

cellfam@mindspring.com

## Oxford Orphanage

Following are gift suggestions for the Oxford Orphanage:

Gift cards for McDonalds, Burger King, Food Lion. Disposable cameras, porch swing, skating and movie palace pointe cards. TIAHA members can get the preceding for the cottage.

For further information and/or questions, please contact **John Colombo**, (919) 781-8356, [johncol@bellsouth.net](mailto:johncol@bellsouth.net).

## TIAHA 2008 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



Dave Baron  
Member at Large



John Bono  
Member at Large



Dale Mancuso  
Member at Large

**Wednesday November 19, Mebanella LIVE at Johnston Community College, 245 College Road, Smithfield, NC 11:00 am - Noon**

**Mebanaires** Corey Sims, Joff Coe, Sherry Lea and Larry Vellani will serenade the midday collegians in Smithfield with the finest from **Mebanella's** grande sacco di canti italiani popolari as part of the College's International Festival. For more information about the College's festival and global education program, visit [www.johnstoncc.edu/student-services/global-ed/events.htm](http://www.johnstoncc.edu/student-services/global-ed/events.htm)

**Friday November 21, Mebanesville LIVE at the Patchwork CD Release Party, Koury Business Center, Elon University, Elon, NC 5:00 – 7:00 pm**

The **Mebanaires** will take the stage along with other artists to celebrate the release of the new CD "Patchwork." "Patchwork" is an anthology of spiritual and spiritual-related music produced by the students at [Elon University](http://Elon University) and featuring Alamance County artists. **Mebanesville** is featured on two cuts: the traditional "Oil in My Vessel," led by friend, neighbor and musical mentor, [Joe Thompson](http://Joe Thompson), performing on his first studio recording in over a decade; and "Panis Angelicus," an original **Mebanesville** take on the [13<sup>th</sup> century](http://13th century) text and an updated and adapted [19<sup>th</sup> century](http://19th century) melody.

**Saturday November 22, Mebanesville and a Children's Hour, Hometown Holiday Celebration, Martinho's Event Center, Clay Street/Downtown Mebane, Mebane, NC 1:00 – 2:00 pm**

The **Mebanaires** roll out a special deck-the-hall-acious-holiday-kickin'-the-yuletide-gong-around-children's set. "Is that YOU, Sammy Claws?" Come see what **Mebanaire** Jane Davis & **Mebanextra** [Kevin Delaney](http://Kevin Delaney) have in mind for the yuletide yutes of Mebane! For more information, visit

[www.cityofmebane.com/events/default.asp?did=&eid=151](http://www.cityofmebane.com/events/default.asp?did=&eid=151)

**Sunday December 7, Messiah in Mebane, Mebane Community Choir, Mebane Presbyterian Church, 402 South Fourth Street, Mebane, NC 3:00 – 4:00 pm**

Singing the [Christmas](http://Christmas) portions of [George Frideric Handel](http://George Frideric Handel)'s master oratorio in [Mebane](http://Mebane) is a tradition that extends midway back into the previous century. The late Dr. George Bullard, M.D. of Mebane organized the first community performance of *Messiah* in the 1951 [Christmas season](http://Christmas season). The community presented the Oratorio annually into the 1970s. This year's performance will be the 40<sup>th</sup> presentation and the 18<sup>th</sup> consecutive performance since *Messiah in Mebane's* revival in 1991.





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*Nicole's* **Studio & Gallery**  
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**RESERVE A TABLE IN TUSCANY**

- TUSCAN CUISINE
- FINE WINES
- FINE ART
- PRIVATE PARTIES
- RAVE REVIEWS
- THEATER SHUTTLE



- BUSINESS LUNCH:  
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- RESERVATIONS:  
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11/2008

# An Italian Thanksgiving

## An Italian Thanksgiving?

Naturally, or did we forget that Columbus discovered (or re-discovered to be politically correct) the Americas? But even as far back as in Roman times, they also celebrated something called Cerelia or Ceres, who was the goddess of corn (the English word of 'cereal' comes from this word). The feast was held each year on during the first week in October and offered to the Goddess the first fruits of the harvest. Naturally, music, parades, games and sports were part of the feast, as always.

And in the fine pilgrim tradition, my ancestors (grandparents) came over here to the New World, America, and they celebrated and gave thanks for their new fortune, freedom and prosperity. However, they were very reluctant to give up the traditions of their own, that is why they still serve manicotti, lasagna or stuffed shells prior to the turkey. If you are ever invited to a real Italian Thanksgiving Dinner, do not eat beforehand, and bring your appetite, and plan on staying for a while or even sleeping over. You see, they start off with the antipasto: salami, pepperoni, tomatoes, olives, anchovies, sweet roasted peppers, assorted cheeses like mozzarella, provolone, and even the American cheddar, etc. Then comes the salad, next the pasta, and of course next comes the turkey, complete with stuffing, yams, mashed potatoes, gravy and anything else you might expect. Afterward, you of course have the fine Italian pastries, and that is always the highlight, the conversation then consists of where you got them, how long you waited on line, and who has the best. This final course includes black coffee done in the double boiler, better known as demitasse or espresso, with the usual cordials, amaretto, sambuca and/or anisette. Homemade or jug wine is served throughout the meal, so in conjunction with the turkey, it would then be time to go into the den or living room to watch the game and doze off, only to wake to the leftovers, turkey sandwiches, leftover antipasto, pastry, etc.

So Thanksgiving at my aunt's house (after my grandparents in Newark were gone, that was family headquarters), went a little something like this:

### Antipasta Freddi (Cold Appetizers)

Assorted Italian Cheeses  
Assorted Olives  
Assorted Sliced Vegetables  
Shrimp Cocktail  
Seafood Cocktail Salad

### Antipasta Caldi (Hot Appetizers)

Stuffed Artichokes  
Stuffed Mushrooms  
Stuffed Peppers

### Primi Piatti (First Course)

Manicotti or Stuffed Shells or Baked Ziti or Lasagna, maybe even Ravioli  
Always served with Meatballs, Sausage, Braciolo

### Secondi Piatti (Second or Main Course)

Turkey, stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce, yams, potatoes, Italian string beans

### Dolce (Desserts)

Pastries from Calandra's, or Ferrara's, or whoever else arguably "has the best"  
Roasted Nuts, chestnuts, and homemade like pumpkin or apple pie (or both), homemade Italian cookies

### Beverages & Drinks

**Brookdale Soda:** Any variety, I am not even sure if they still make this anymore, as it was a regional soda that came in such favorites as black cherry, grape and orange. And of course, for the "adults" lemon lime, ginger ale and club soda for "highballs" or cocktails as we call them today. These bottles had a deposit, and you had to pry off the top cap, reseal with plastic tabs or corks to keep from going flat, they were delivered weekly like the milk in those days.

**Rose and/or Red Wine by the Jug** (I never recall seeing white wine, though I am sure the had it on hand), nothing fancy, whatever was cheapest, the wine would never take precedence over the food for any reason! Of course, there was also a small amount of homemade wine on hand.

**Dessert Drinks:** Demi Tasse (or espresso) and American Coffee

**Italian Cordials & Liqueurs:** Sambuca, Anisette, Blackberry Brandy, Amaretto, Fangelico

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10/2008

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## CONGRATULATIONS

Below is a picture of Joan and Dave Baron's grandson, Robert Gill, receiving his USMC captains' bars at a ceremony in Iraq . Joan and Dave are extremely proud of Rob.



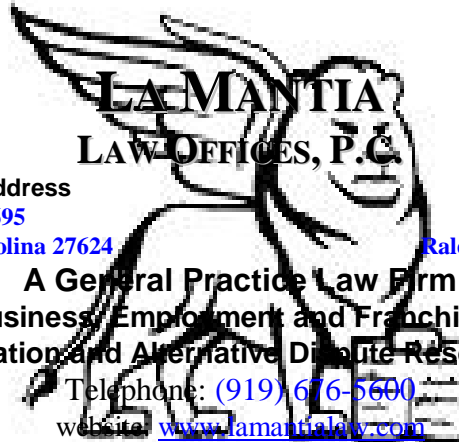
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**December General Membership and Christmas Dinner Meeting**

**Reminder:** The December 17th membership meeting is open to wives, girlfriends, and significant others (please choose one). 😊

For more information, please see item 4 of Board minutes contained in this newsletter.



# Thanksgiving in Italy

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## La Festa del Ringraziamento

Many cultures have been celebrating harvests for centuries.

[Thesmophoria](#) is an ancient Greek harvest festival. Southwest American Indians perform a Corn Dance, the Jewish people celebrate [Sukkot](#), which marks the end of the agricultural year and coincides with the final harvest before the onset of winter, and many [Asian cultures have celebrations](#) in gratitude for their rich rice harvest.

The Romans also celebrated a harvest festival called Cerelia, which honored [Ceres](#), the goddess of corn (from which the word cereal comes). The festival was held each year on October 4th and offerings of the first fruits of the harvest were offered to Ceres. Their celebration included music, parades, games and sports, and a feast.

But Thanksgiving in Italy? How about celebrating the Celtic New Year in Japan, or El Carnaval in Russia? The distinctly American tradition, created by Pilgrims to commemorate a bountiful harvest in the New World, doesn't translate well in another land where the [Plymouth Rock](#) would be just another stone in two-thousand-year-old [Roman archaeological ruins](#). Even the transliterated phrase in Italian for Thanksgiving, *La Festa del Ringraziamento*, refers to a variety of religious holidays held throughout the year for patron saints.

### Variations on a Theme

In fact, expatriates from North America who do honor the Thanksgiving holiday in Italy find it difficult to replicate, since the ingredients necessary for a [New England-style Thanksgiving dinner](#) are not easy to find. Italian Thanksgiving, for most Italian Americans, then, means the inclusion of special Italian recipes to accompany the [roast turkey](#), [stuffing](#), [pumpkin pie](#), [Macy's Annual Thanksgiving Day Parade](#), and A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday of November.

Every family of Italian heritage has different culinary traditions to celebrate the holiday. An Italian Thanksgiving dinner might include [ravioli con la zucca](#) (pumpkin ravioli), [tacchinella alla melagrana](#) (roast turkey basted with pomegranate sauce and served with a pomegranate-and-giblet gravy), [sweet Italian turkey sausage and mozzarella stuffing](#), [baked sweet potatoes with lime and ginger](#), and even [Italian cakes and pastries](#). What matters most, though, during *La Festa del Ringraziamento* isn't what ingredients are used, or who won the football game, but the opportunity for families and communities to come together and celebrate the season in a tradition that's timeless.

### Italian Thanksgiving Vocabulary List

- [l'autunno](#) — fall
- [l'Amerindio](#) — American Indian
- [il corteo](#) — parade
- [il granturco](#) — Indian corn
- [il Nuovo Mondo](#) — New World
- [i Padri Pellegrini](#) — Pilgrim Fathers
- [il raccolto](#) — harvest
- [il tacchino](#) — turkey
- [la tradizione](#) — tradition
- [la zucca](#) — pumpkin

## **Frustrated Italian Gov't: 100 Billion Euros Of Taxes Evaded Every Year**

Rome - October 28, 2008 - The figure for 2007 was a record. Inspectors recovered a total of 6.3 billion euros in a single year from tax evaders, up 50% on 2006. There was another record in the first four months of 2008 as the tax agency clawed back 800 million euros, an increase of 24% over the previous year. It sounds like a lot but in fact it is very little, considering that according to official figures from the ministry of the economy, total annual tax evasion in Italy amounts to a staggering 100 billion euros.

Naturally, the figures underestimate the reality. According to the ISTAT statistics institute, the black economy accounts for at least 20% of the country's gross domestic product, or 280 billion euros. Other sources put the figure even higher. Whatever the truth, tax evasion in Italy is three times the level of those countries in Europe that combat the informal economy most effectively, and twice the European average. If Italy managed to make everyone pay taxes, or even to collect only half of the 100 billion euros evaded, it would be a very different country.

For example, Italy could double the amount spent on research, which is lowest of all the industrialized countries, or increase every single pension by 45%. Sadly, it is likely that all this will remain a pipe dream. The scale of the phenomenon, and the incredible ingenuity expended by Italians on dodging the taxman, do not leave much room for hope. Cunning and chutzpah are the main weapons used in the battle with the taxman and over the years, Italians have applied their proverbial imagination to a range of scams, swindles and expedients that is unrivalled anywhere else.

What can you say about the free mattresses given away with a magazine at a cover price of 2,000 euros, to exploit the special tax regime enjoyed by publishing and pay VAT at 4% instead of 20%? Or the social clubs that leverage their privileged tax status to act as fronts for business enterprises with an annual turnover of 800,000 euros, like the Oristano customs police social club? Italian creativity knows no bounds. When a business needs customers, it simply makes them up. At Giulianova, a mobile phone company managed to evade 26 million euros thanks to false invoices. And to look credible in the taxman's eyes the business claimed a tax rebate for a cool five million euros. This sort of brass-necked cheek is far from unusual. It goes on even in the best families.

A couple in San Donà di Piave faked a gift to their daughter of two plots of land. The value was the same as the taxable capital gain, 250,000 euros. It was a shame that only a few days later, the astute young woman sold the land on for the same amount without generating any capital gain or tax liability. The homemade scam was uncovered, but only because the trio deposited the checks from the final purchasers straight into mom and dad's bank account.

In Italy, it's not hard to find casual workers who drive Porsches, or a 75-year-old pensioner with a declared income of 1,000 euros a month who has just ordered a 30,000-euro swimming pool, or a plumber declaring 3,000 euros a year who turns out to be pocketing 350,000. Perhaps these are isolated cases. Nevertheless, the sector studies used to make the self-employed pay taxes on the basis of presumed income tell a different story.

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

They report, for example, 100,000 taxpayers who claim for the purchase of capital goods but apparently do not own them. Among them are 3,329 restaurants with no kitchen or tables, 480 pharmacies without shelves, 555 laundries with no washing machines, more than 5,000 installation engineers with no pliers or screwdrivers and 360 analysis laboratories with no equipment. There are even 137 taxi drivers with no taxi. Tax inspectors are also honing their wits to staunch Italy's hemorrhaging tax revenue. In Liguria, almost 10,000 taxpayers ended up in the cross-hairs of the tax authorities, which are completing checks at the moment. How were the "suspects" identified? Income tax returns were cross-checked against customer databases gleaned from 33 travel agencies and the region's auction houses, flying clubs and beauty centers.

The not-so-indigent poor can be unmasked by blanket checks, like the one carried out by the Liguria tax agency, but targeted investigations offer another option. A check of 250 doctors in Sicily revealed that 100 were guilty of tax irregularities. The customs police also regularly makes similar checks on receipts issued by shops but there was little to be done in the case of the Sardinian pastry shop owner who always gave his customers a receipt. He couldn't be faulted except for one tiny detail: he had omitted to present a tax return for fully seven years, evading half a million euros in the process. It has to be said that the likelihood of a visit from the taxman is small. Some studies say that tax evaders run a serious risk of inspection once every sixteen years. Nor is there any social stigma attached to tax evasion. This was shown again last spring, when the authorities published details of every Italian's tax returns on the web. The information was immediately blacked out to protect confidentiality.

In other words, there is no civic conscience to aid the taxman. The inspection machinery is making enormous progress but it still can't keep up with evasion. We only have to look at the legal backlog. Even when the taxman wins in court, it takes an inordinate amount of time to get the money. A final verdict in tax-related cases emerges after an average of four years and when the figures are totted up, they are pitiful. Out of 44 billion euros of evaded taxes, the authorities actually managed to recover only 7.3%. Or to put it another way, 92.7% of evaders who are caught still get away with it.

**Politicians:** *"Cazzo, Italians evade 46% of income tax!"*

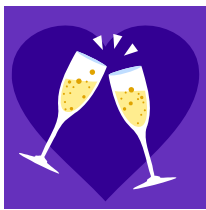
**Italians:** *"Mi scusi, who better to **"mangiare"** (eat) my hard earned tax money than myself?"*

**Italy's Stupendous Tax-Evading Facts:**

- *Italian blue chip companies do not pay taxes on half of their income.*
- *In the 2006 fiscal year, only 500,000 Italians declared an income of over 70,000 Euros*



## ON A PERSONAL NOTE:



### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

John and Dee Bono  
Louis and Katerine Fabrizio  
Rick and Dianne LaFata  
Virgil and Anne Luciani  
Tony and Virginia Manzi  
Richard and Elaine Marino



### BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

#### MEMBERS

Tony Aiello  
Neal Caliendo  
Al Cellini  
Dalien Guliano  
Michael Kuharcik  
Richard Marino  
Corbet Monica  
Chris Morea  
Sal Notarmaso  
Bob Petrolino

#### SIGNIFICANT OTHERS

Debbie Argento

### CONGRATULATIONS:

**Joe Larotonda's** daughter is getting married.

### CONCERNS:

**Peter Cari** is recovering from lung cancer surgery.

Please pray for Peter's recovery and complete cure.

### CONDOLENCES:

**Ron Little's** mother, Mary Little, of Fairport, NY passed away November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the age of 93.

Please remember Ron and his family in your prayers.



### EDITOR:

Is something newsworthy?  
Let us know, send it to

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If you know of an illness, birth, death, marriage, etc., of a TIAHA member or member's family, please contact:

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If your e-mail and/or home address changes, please notify **Bob Petrolino**, at (919) 760-9039, [bobbypet@earthlink.net](mailto:bobbypet@earthlink.net) .

The **deadline** for submitting input to the newsletter is 9:00 PM the **second Wednesday of the month.**

### Newsletter Advertisement Rates:

Business card	\$40	per year
1/4 page	\$60	per year
1/2 page	\$80	per year
Full Page	\$100	per year



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

**TIAHA UPCOMING EVENTS**

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**November 19th (Wednesday), 6:30 PM - GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** Knights of Columbus, New Hope and Columbus Roads, Raleigh.

**November 29th Saturday), 8:30 AM - ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY** Brassfield Elementary School, intersection of Brassfield Rd. and Honeycutt Rd., Raleigh.

**December 2nd (Tuesday), 6:30 PM – EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:** Knights of Columbus, New Hope and Columbus Roads, Raleigh.

**December 7th (Sunday), - CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY** TBD

**December 11th (Thursday), - MASONIC HOME FOR CHILDREN CHRISTMAS PARTY** Oxford, NC

**December 17th (Wednesday), - GENERAL MEMBERSHIP & CHRISTMAS DINNER MEETING** Knights of Columbus, New Hope and Columbus Roads, Raleigh.