



*Newsletter*



**May/Maggio 2009**

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**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:**

Dear TIAHA Brothers,

I have been extremely busy with work, travel, health, and family in the past month and, truthfully, have not put as much time and/or effort into TIAHA as I would have liked to (I know some of you are saying, "Thanks for the break, Frank.")

In any case, my message this month is for each of us to call and/or visit our families and loved ones. Call each and every one of your children and tell them you love them. Even if you see them all the time, make a call. And don't forget their spouses as well.

If you have grandchildren, call them to just let them know you love them and think about them all the time. Go to the local store and pick up some kind of funny and age applicable card and send it to them. Put a \$1 or \$5 bill in there as well.

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Call each and every one of your brothers and sisters. Think and reminisce about something really special you did with them in your childhood. Tell them you love and miss them, even if you've been feuding with them or their spouse the last few years. They are still family.

Call an old friend that you haven't talked to in a long time. Call someone you know who is a bit under the weather or in bad health and tell them something to cheer them up, even if it is a small thing.

You'll be pleasantly surprised how good you will feel.

Fraternally yours,

Frank

## TIAHA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 5th, 2009 at Knights of Columbus, New Hope Road and Columbus Road, Raleigh, NC

**Attendees: Frank Ferraro, John Bono, Bob Caprioli, Dale Mancuso, Victor Cononi, Jim Frederici, Sal Notarmaso, Vince Salvaggio.**

**Meeting Called To Order: 6:35pm**

- **New Member Voted In By Board:**

1. Frank received an email from Bob Giannuzzi inquiring about the membership application for his guest Mike Piombino.
2. The board unanimously voted in Mike Piombino as TIAHA's newest member. Congratulations, Mike !!!

- **Bob Vetrano's Wedding Anniversary:**

1. Bob was not able to attend the board meeting because it was his 46<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.
2. Congratulations to Bob and Kathleen Vetrano from the TIAHA board.

- **Raffle Tickets:**

1. Frank reported that to date only enough tickets and money have been turned in to cover the cost of the prizes being offered. This is not sufficient. TIAHA needs the money from the raffle tickets to operate.
2. Frank asked the board members to call the people on their CALL lists to find out if they've sold their tickets; and if so, to please turn in the money.

- **Feed The Troops at the USO:**

1. Dale Mancuso reported the last Feed the Troops event at the USO club at RDU airport was a success.
2. Approximately 50 – 60 of our brave men and women in uniform were served a hot pasta meal by TIAHA volunteers on Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>.
3. Dale requested that a certificate of appreciation be sent to Michael Chuong, the owner of An Restaurant, for allowing TIAHA to use his restaurant's kitchen to prepare the pasta meal. The board was in agreement.

- **Dues Are Due:**

1. Frank asked Bob Caprioli to provide him with a list of members who have not yet paid their dues. This issue will be addressed.

- **The Healing Place For Women:**

1. As reported in the General Membership Meeting Minutes from 4-15-2009, there was a possibility of TIAHA cooking the graduation dinner at The Healing Place for Women.
2. It was tentatively scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup>, which was the same night as this board meeting.
3. The graduation dinner was to be for the women who completed the program.
4. Victor Cononi reported nothing more had been heard from The Healing Place for Women on this subject.
5. As a side note, Victor told the board that as a general rule, Tuesdays are not good for TIAHA to use the kitchen facilities at The Healing Place for Women. This is why the An Restaurant's kitchen was used for cooking the food for the USO (see above).

- **Cleanup After Meals:**

1. A few of the board members reported to Frank that lack of volunteers to help clean up the K of C kitchen after meals at our general meetings has become quite a problem.
2. There are members who go back into the kitchen to package up food to take home, but who won't help to clean up.
3. The idea was brought up to not allow members to package food to take home unless they first help to clean up the kitchen. No clean up, then no food to take home.
4. Frank to will talk about this at the next general meeting.

- **Italian Earthquake Relief:**
  1. Frank is concerned that it may be too late for TIAHA to plan and run an event to collect money for Italian Earthquake Relief.
  2. Frank is concerned because the Italian earthquake is “old news”. It’s not in the headlines of U.S. newspapers or covered on the U.S. news networks any longer; even though the need for earthquake relief still exists in Italy. How does TIAHA go about collecting money for earthquake relief from people so long after the fact?
  3. Victor suggested that TIAHA could still go ahead with plans to sell a pasta meal at a First Friday event at Art Space in downtown Raleigh, as long as TIAHA advertizes that proceeds collected are for all of TIAHA’s main charitable causes, including earthquake relief. TIAHA could advertise that proceeds collected will benefit the USO, The Healing Place for Women, Italian Earthquake Relief etc etc.
  4. The board members thought that sounded like a good idea. Plans need to be made.
  
- **Rental Storage Options:**
  - Capi checked on the prices for different sizes of storage units at the rental storage facility next to the K of C.
  - Capi is trying to determine whether or not TIAHA really needs storage space as large as the unit we currently rent. Smaller space requirement would help TIAHA to cut costs on storage.
  - Dale M. reported there are several items in the storage shed that should be removed and discarded. This would free up space in the current unit. Items include a fridge that doesn’t work and a file cabinet.
  
- **St. Raph’s Festival in September:**
  - Frank reported that organizational meetings are beginning at St. Raphs for their September Festival.
  - Frank will be attending the organizational meetings.
  - Frank reported that TIAHA would again have both a food booth and have the trash collection contract.

**Meeting Adjourned: 7:12pm (to the sounds of pouring rain, thunder, lightning and tornadoes outside the K of C building).**

## TIAHA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

April 15th, 2009 at Knights of Columbus, New Hope Road and Columbus Road, Raleigh, NC

**Board Members Present: Dale Mancuso, Bob Caprioli, Sal Notarmaso, Jim Frederici, John Christofaro, Victor Cononi, John Bono.**

**Meeting Called To Order: 6:33pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.**

- **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY VICE PRESIDENT SAL NOTARMASO:**

1. Vice President Sal ran the meeting.
2. President Frank was in New York City for the home opener at the “New” Yankee Stadium. Have a hot dog for me, Frank !!!
3. Sal “No Tomatoes” conducted the meeting senza podium or gavel. Sal’s commanding presence was all he needed.

- **GUESTS INTRODUCED AND WELCOMED:**

1. **Mike Pendola:** Mike’s roots are in Sicily. He’s in the “protection” business. Mike was Joe Frangiosa’s guest. Welcome, Mike.
2. **Mike Piombino:** This Mike could also trace his roots to Sicily. Mike is a Medicaid manager from Albany, New York. Mike was Bob Giannuzzi’s guest. Welcome, Mike.
3. **Two guys named Mike, both with roots in Sicily, both with last names starting with “P”. Weird. WELCOME TO TIAHA, MIKE and MIKE !!!**
4. **Sammy Hale:** Sammy is a Director at Food Lion. His mother’s heritage is somewhere in southern Tuscani, but he couldn’t be more specific. Sammy was Victor Cononi’s guest. Welcome, Sammy !!!

- **GOOD & WELFARE (Bob Vetrano, chairman):**

1. Vice President Sal gave the Good and Welfare report in Bob’s absence.
2. Al Cellini’s wife, Pat, was ill but she’s reported to be recovering well. We wish Pat Cellini a speedy recovery.
3. Claudio Rossini (of Claudio’s restaurant) was diagnosed with cancer of the liver. He’s been getting weaker. Our prayers and thoughts go out to Claudio and his wife, Sandy.
4. Peter Cari who’s been undergoing chemo sessions is doing pretty well. In fact, he was at this meeting and was helping to cook our meal. Nice to see you, Peter !!!
5. John Argento and Vinnie Doria were both laid off from their jobs early last year. They both found employment with other companies, where each was employed for six months. Both John and Vinnie have just recently each been laid off again from their new jobs. All TIAHA members are asked to pray for John and Vinnie, and for everyone who’s lost a job in this economy, and to anyone who may lose a job in the future.
6. Vice President Sal’s son, Sal Junior, has joined the Army. He will be at an E5 level after he completes basic training. He is destined to be a UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) pilot for the Army. Congratulations and best of luck to Sal Junior.

1. **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Annual Raffle: VP Sal’s message to the membership, “EVERYONE NEEDS TO SELL MORE TICKETS !!”** 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. Tickets cost \$5 each. The prizes will be \$500, \$300 and \$200.
2. **USO Feed the Troops:** Dale Mancuso reported the next opportunity to help feed our brave men and women will be on Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, starting at 11:00am. Cooking will begin at 8:00am at a restaurant named “An”. The restaurant is on Harrison Ave. on the opposite side of the highway from SAS, and on the south side of Sam’s Club. The kitchen at the Healing Place for Women could not be used this time because the kitchen there would be in use during the morning of the 21<sup>st</sup>. “Feed The Troops” meals will be at the RDU airport again, as always. The USO club is located on the second floor above the Southwest Airlines check-in counters. Sign-up sheets for both cooking and serving are available for members to sign up to volunteer. Dale needs 5 cooks (starting at 8:00am) and enough servers for two shifts: 11:00am – 1:00pm, and 1:00pm – 3:00pm.
3. **Healing Place for Women:** Dale Mancuso and Victor Cononi announced a possible date for cooking another meal for the women of The Healing Place for Women. Tentatively scheduled

for May 5<sup>th</sup>, a Tuesday. The staff and women of The Healing Place for Women were so impressed with the previous meal TIAHA prepared for them, they would like TIAHA to come back and prepare a meal for their graduation dinner. The graduation dinner is for the women who have completed the programs to kick alcohol or drug addiction. More details will follow.

4. **Heritage Chairman:** Tony Aiello has been appointed to be the new Italian Heritage Chairman. TIAHA has not had an official heritage Chairman in several years. Good luck, Tony.
  5. **TIAHA Scholarship:** Bob Giannuzzi reported that no applications have been received yet. The deadline for scholarship entries is April 30<sup>th</sup>. This date is fast approaching. 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.
  6. **Cary Lazy Days:** TIAHA's entry into the Cary Lazy Days celebration has been approved, as reported by Bob Vetrano at a previous meeting. Bob volunteered to be the chairman for this event. Lazy Days will be held on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. This will be a one day affair running from 11:00am till 5:00 or 6:00pm. Bob reported at a previous meeting that it won't be possible to have 220-volt power hookups at Cary Lazy Days event, so it won't be possible to make any pizzas. Darn!!!
  7. **DUES ARE WAY OVERDUE, IF YOU HAVEN'T PAID ALREADY.**
- **NEW BUSINESS:**
    1. **Oddfellows Spaghetti Lunch and Dinner:** The Oddfellows Lodge will be having a spaghetti lunch and dinner this Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. The cost will be an all inclusive \$6.00 per person. All TIAHA members and their families are asked to stop by the Oddfellows Lodge on Six Forks Road to help our Oddfellows brothers with their fund raiser.
    2. **Sons of Italy and Bocce Tournament:** Bob Giannuzzi reported the local Sons of Italy chapter has a team entered in a Bocce tournament to help raise money for the fight of Cystic Fibrosis. The tournament will be held at Cardinal Gibbons School. Bob suggested that TIAHA might also want to field a team for the tournament. The date of the tournament will be April 26<sup>th</sup>.
    3. **President Frank Was on TV:** President Frank was interviewed by channel 14 TV news during the TIAHA board meeting on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. Frank was interviewed because of the recent earthquake in Italy. The reporter asked Frank if TIAHA had any plans to raise money for the earthquake victims and relief efforts. There is a tentative plan (within 2 months) to cook and serve a meal to raise money. Vice President Sal said he will be one of the cooks, but he needs more people to help him cook. A location being discussed is the old Greenshields building in Art Space in downtown Raleigh on one of the upcoming First Friday events. Cooking and selling of meals to raise funds has been approved by the board. The details need to be worked out.
    4. **Motion made By Carmine DiGrande:** Brother Carmine DiGrande made a motion that a committee be formed to investigate the possibility of having a dinner dance at the Knights of Columbus for the purpose of raising funds for the Italian earthquake relief. Carmine Sacchitello brought to Carmine DiGrande's attention the fact the K of C hall could hold only a total of 75 couples maximum. This could make for a rather limited fund raising event, in terms of funds that could be raised. Vice President Sal seconded Carmine DiGrande's motion. This will need to be discussed at the next board meeting.
    5. **Checks Can be Written To TIAHA For Earthquake Relief:** Someone brought up the point that checks can be made out to TIAHA for any monetary donations members would like to make to the earthquake relief fund. I believe it was either Treasurer Capi or VP Sal that brought this up. On the "notes" line at the lower left of all checks, the donor simply needs to write in "Italian Earthquake Relief", and make the check payable to "TIAHA". Then mail in the check to Treasurer Capi, or hand the check to one of the board members.
  - **COOKS & HELPERS FOR THIS EVENING'S MEAL:**
    1. We all had yet another outstanding meal this evening!! There was a team of cooks, headed by Vice President Sal "No Tomatoes". Sal had assistance from these culinary experts: Peter Cari, Steve Spampinato, Al from India and Bob Cenfetelli. The main part of the meal was pork marsalla, with garlic mashed potatoes, green beans, salad and bread. Thank you one and all for a delicious meal!!
  - **MARCH COOKS:** Sal asked for volunteers to cook the meal in May. No one stepped forward, as far as I know for these meeting minutes.
  - **50-50 RAFFLE:**
    1. One of tonight's guests, Mike Piombino, won the 50-50. His share of the pot was a nice \$21.00!

**Meeting Adjourned: 7:22pm**

## 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

## Let's Pizza: The Pizza Vending Machine



Rovereto - March 14, 2009 - Is Europe bringing back the automat? Claudio Torghele hopes so.

Over the last decade, Mr. Torghele, 56, an entrepreneur in this northern Italian city who first made money selling pasta in California, has developed a vending machine that cooks pizza. The machine does not just slip a frozen pizza into a microwave. It actually whips up flour, water, tomato sauce and fresh ingredients to produce a piping hot pizza in about three minutes.

The machine, which Mr. Torghele calls "Let's Pizza", is only the spearhead of a trend. Restaurants reminiscent of the old Horn & Hardart chain in the United States, which are fully automatic, are also showing up around the Continent.

Unlike the old automats (the last Horn & Hardart closed in 1991), which were staffed with workers who refilled the machines with creamed spinach and baked beans as fast as customers pulled them out, these restaurants consist entirely of vending machines.

In Milan, a two-hour drive west of Rovereto, a franchise chain called Brekky has opened the first three of what is planned to be a large chain of restaurants in which customers can buy cold dishes like salads and sandwiches, and warm dishes like pasta, from vending machines.

The idea for a pizza robot came to Mr. Torghele after he worked in California in the mid-1990s creating a fresh pasta manufacturer. "At food courts I saw a trend toward vending machines," he said at his office in this mountain town. "In fast food, I saw pizza everywhere."

With backing from a Dutch investment fund, his own capital and money from friends, he set to work. A plan to simply miniaturize industrial technology for producing frozen pizza failed, but by 2003 Mr. Torghele had produced a machine ready to be tested in Chicago and shown at a trade fair in Orlando, Fla.

That same year, with the help of Unilever, the British-Dutch food giant, he test-marketed 20 machines in Germany. "We had a bicycle," he said. "Now we had to pedal."

The machine Mr. Torghele and his engineers produced is outfitted with little windows so the customer can watch the pizza being made. As in the Charlie Chaplin film "Modern Times" (in miniature and without Chaplin) wheels turn and gears grind. The customer presses a button to choose one of four varieties - margherita (plain cheese and tomato sauce), bacon, ham or fresh greens. A plastic container dumps flour into a drum resembling a tiny washing machine; a squirt of water follows, and the drum goes into a spin cycle, forming a blob of dough that is then pressed flat to form a 12-inch disk.

Tomato paste is squirted onto the dough and cheese is added before it is lifted into a small infrared oven. The baked pizza then slips onto a cardboard tray and out into the customer's waiting hands. Mr. Torghele says the pizza will cost as little \$4.50, depending on the variety.

It is not surprising that the new drive to offer fresh-made food is coming from Italy. Italians may be legendary for long lunches of pasta and wine, but they also lead Europe in vending machines, with more than 614,000 installed, compared with 593,000 in France and 562,000 in Britain, according to the European Vending Association in Brussels.

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Much of Italy's strength in vending comes from coffee. An Italian coffee vending machine may offer up to 18 different varieties, including espresso, cappuccino, ristretto, lungo and macchiato.

But with coffee markets increasingly saturated, machine manufacturers are casting about for new products to push, like books, DVDs, scarves and handkerchiefs, even model cars and trains.

Operators are also increasingly offering fresh produce, like apples, and other healthy food at schools and fitness centers.

Now, with the economic crisis spreading across Europe, the industry faces a different landscape. On the one hand, as factories close, potential vending machine sites disappear. On the other hand, as consumers find themselves with less cash, the lower-priced items in vending machines become attractive.

Where does this leave Mr. Torghelle and his pizza machine? Initially, he thought the United States would be his primary market, but he learned that market would be hard to penetrate. Instead, when his machine goes into regular production this summer, he will be focusing on Italy and its neighbors. But vending machine prices there average about \$2,600, and his machine will sell for \$32,000.

Still, experts in the business are not discouraging. "You have to have a location; you have to understand where to go with that machine," Mr. Iannuzzi said. "But there is a future for that."

***"Porca vacca!"** How sad. The only pizza worse than frozen pizza.*

- A plastic container dumps flour into a drum resembling a tiny washing machine,
- a squirt of water follows,
- the drum goes into a spin cycle, forming a blob of dough,
- then pressed flat to form a 12-inch disk,
- tomato paste is squirted onto the dough,
- cheese is added,
- pie is then lifted into a small infrared oven,
- baked pizza then slips onto a cardboard tray and out into the customer's waiting hands.

***'That's a lot of entertainment for \$4.50!***

*The only thing more entertaining is watching the Italian inventor put on a straight face while explaining how fantastic it could be to eat a fresh cooked pizza from a vending machine. Keep in mind the **infrared oven** gives the pizza that extra special flavor.*

*Mr. Torghelle, should take his invention a step further by adding a little atmosphere. Let's say...**Naples:***

*Put money in the vending machine and it gives back the incorrect change. It plays loud Napolitano music from Nino D'Angelo while spinning and squirting your ingredients. After you finish your pizza, you throw out your cardboard tray and dirty napkins in the middle of the street.*

*Hmmm...The only positive we see coming from "Let's Pizza" is, at least, you won't have to deal with an incoherent pizza man who mixes cement during the day and makes your pizza at night...**all without ever washing his hands!***

*Let's hope the pizza won't get stuck and dangle there like a bag of chips, and you're forced to **rock the machine back and forth.***



8/2008

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### **Mamaluke:**

Italian or **Italian-American slang** for someone who did something foolish or silly. Usually aimed at males, and usually not in an overly hostile manner. More a term to use with a friend or family member in a teasing way that may also be a veiled insult against their manhood.

When a father calls his son a mamaluke, the word is often followed by a swift palm-smack against the back of the head.

May have originally come from Mameluke or Mamluke - Arab mercenaries who were most powerful from about the 13th to 16th centuries. Napoleon used these cavalry warriors as well. Their uniforms; white turbans, vests, red pants and equally colorful boots, may well have spurred the foolish, silly and/or unmanly label.

Mamaluke, take those olives off your fingers.

\*smack\*

### **Goombah:**

- (1)a close friend or associate -- used especially among **Italian-American** men
- (2)a member of a secret chiefly **Italian-American** crime organization
- (3)a macho **Italian-American** man
- (4)pal or companion
- (5)character in mario bros

Etymology: Italian dialect (Campania) cumbã , vocative form of cumbare respected older man, literally, godfather, from Medieval Latin compater  
I'd like you to meet my goombah. We go way back.

### **Kapish:**

kapish is formally spelled as capisce (pronounced as cah-peesh) which is derived from the italian word capire "to understand" and from latin capere "to grasp or to seize".

it is now used in american **slang** to say "got it" or "understand."

common alternative spellings you might encounter are capice, capicé, capiche, capeesh, capisch, capishe and coppish.

**Is your favorite Italian American actor really of Italian decent, or just a convincing actor?**

**(Will the real Italian American Actor please stand up?)**

*Peter Falk*, the veteran actor who portrays TV's cunning inspector Colombo, does such an excellent job at imitating the Italian American sleuth that most TV viewers believe Peter Falk to be of Italian decent.

In reality, Falk is Russian and Polish, with a mix of Hungarian and Czech further back in his ancestry. So, contrary to Falk's public image, he is not Italian American but a mixture of very hardy Eastern European stock. On the other hand, there are those actors, who, in real life, are of Italian heritage but because of a changed name and the rolls they choose to play, are rarely linked to their Italian ancestry. For example, actor *Allen Alda*, "Hawkeye" of TV's M.A.S.H. fame, was born Alfonso D'Abruzzo. When the actor's father, Robert Alda, entered show business he changed his Italian surname to better assimilate into American culture.

Actress *Yvonne DeCarlo*, "Lilly Munster" of TV's "The Monsters", was born Peggy Middleton, but changed her average sounding name to the more exotic, Italian sounding, Yvonne DeCarlo .

During the 1960s, when Jack Paar was king of late night television, he had, as a regular guest on his show, an Italian born golf pro by the name of "*Guido Ponzini*". Audiences, especially Italian Americans, fell in love with the handsome and hilarious Italian golf pro from Salerno, Italy. Ponzini returned again and again to the show, week after week, the Italian community embraced the comedian with great affection believing him to be from their native land. Until it was revealed that the whole thing had been a clever ruse and the Italian golf pro was, in reality, Irish American comic Pat Harrington Jr. Harrington had all the gestures, mannerisms and the Italian accent down so well he fooled just about everyone, including Italian Americans.

Mannerisms, images, and an association with a certain element of crime has influence how Hollywood selects the actors to portray their rolls. During the 1930s and '40s, two of Hollywood's popular dramatic actors were George Raft (George Ranft) and Edward G. Robinson (Emmanuel Goldberg), neither actor was Italian but they portrayed so many mobsters with ethnic surnames that fans mistakenly believed them to be of Italian decent. Another actor from that era was Italian American Richard Conte who chose to keep his original family name and, perhaps, because of it, and his dark, ethnic, looks, was typecast throughout his career as a street wise tough guy and mobster boss. He is best remembered for his work in *Oceans 11* and *The Godfather* trilogy.

One of TV's most prolific actors, during the golden age of television, was *Anthony (Tony) Caruso*. During TV's western genre, Caruso, the son of Italian immigrants, was cast in so many Native American rolls, that most TV viewers believed the actor to be a Native American actor.

*Anthony Quinn* is a vintage Hollywood actor with strong, ethnic, good looks commonly believed to be Italian American, His work with famous director Federico Fellini, and Italian born actresses Anna Magnani and Sophia Loren added to that belief. In realty, Quinn is of Mexican- Irish decent.

Then there's the hit TV sitcom, *Everybody loves Raymond*, especially Italian American TV viewers who can well relate to Ray's Italian American family, his brother Robert, his wife Debra, his father Frank and mother Marie. However, despite all the realism, Ray Romano is the only actor on the series who's heritage is Italian American.

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*Henry Winkler* did such a convincing job of acting like the cool, motorcycle riding "Fonzie" Fonzarelli on "Happy Days", that fans believed him to be Italian. Truth is, Winkler couldn't ride a motorcycle and he was no more Italian than Richie Cunningham.

Actor *Ernest Borgnine* won an Oscar for his portrayal of a lonely Italian American bachelor in the academy award winning film, *Marty*. Borgnine whose family names are Borgnino - Bonselli has his family roots in Italy, but after *Marty*, perhaps afraid of being typed cast, few of his rolls reflected his Italian heritage. Most fans know him best as the comical Lt. Commander McHale from TV's *McHale's Navy* (1963-66)

*Richard Crenna's* looks and name never typed cast him. For that reason, few fans knew the actor was Italian American and that his parents came from Tuscany, Italy. His television character rolls included Luke McCoy on TV's *The Real McCoys*. And Walter Denton on the *Our miss brooks* series. But the role that brought him a unique cult following of fans was his characterization of Lieutenant Trautman in the film series *Rambo*, starring. Sylvester Stalone. Stalone like many of the current actors chose to light up the marquee with his original ethnic name.

The first famous Italian American actor to change his name for the screen was, of course, the great silent screen star *Rudolph Valentino*. Whose real name was Rudolpho Guglimi De Valentina. No matter his name, his dark Latin good looks were unmistakable and irresistible to female fans. Movie goers of the 1930s and 40s, put stars like Valentino high on a pedestal, for that reason common names had to be changed to attract fans to the box office.

Today's Hollywood is just the opposite of the old standards, they want to use ethnic names to create the illusion that their stars are just like the average guy or gal next door. Otherwise stars such as Ray Romano may have easily become Ray Roberts and Joe Mantegna- Joe Martin?

Years ago, many Italian American actors changed the family surname on the advice of their agents. Oscar winning actress *Ann Bancroft* was in real life born Anna Marie Louise Italiano. *Penny Marshall*, Lavern DiFasio, of Lavern and Shirley, was born Penelope Masciarelli, *Connie Stevens* was Concetta, *Rosalie*, Engolia, *Robert Blake* was born Michael Gubitosi, *Nicolas Cage*- Nicolas Coppola, *Vince Edwards* was Vincent Zoino, *Talia Shire* was born Talia Coppola, *James Darren*- James Ercolani, Rock star *Madonna* was born Louise Veronica Ciccone, *Tony Danza* was Anthony Iadanza, *Bobby Darrin* -Roberto Cossotto and *Dean Martin* was Dino Crocetti. Italian Actress *Sophia Loren* was born Sofia Villani Scicolone, a name that would leave little room for her co-stars on the marquee.

Hollywood has a large number of actors of Italian decent who have maintained their ethnic identity and achieved stardom despite having names that are not easily spelled or pronounced.

**Here are some of the actors who light up the marquee with their ethnicity:**

*Robert De Niro, Al Pacino, Sylvester Stallone, John Travolta, Leonardo DiCaprio, Danny Di Vito, Joe Mantegna, Dennis Farrina, Scott Baio, Susan Lucci, Annette Funicello, James Galdofini, Ray Liotta, Joe Pesci, Ben Gazzarra, Tony Franciosa, and Danny Aiello.*

Unfortunately, there is one thing that all of these Italian American stars have in common, it is the fact that because of their strong ethnic names and facial features, they have not, and most likely, will not, anytime soon, be asked by Hollywood to portray the role of President of the United States, or anyone else in high political office. Think about it? When's the last time you saw an Italian portray the president of the United States? **CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

Hollywood still continues to typecast the Italian looking actor in roles that are generally restricted to comedy buffoons, cagey detectives, pizza parlor owners, or mobster rolls. The rare exception to this rule came when actor *Joe Mantegna* was offered the role of Supreme Court Justice, *Joe Novelli*, on the TV series *First Monday*. However, that's not really much of a stretch for Hollywood, since we already have two sitting Supreme Court justices - *Antonin Scalia* and *Samuel Alito*.

Lets hope this is the beginning of a new standard in media type casting and that the American Italian actor will be cast in powerful rolls that inspire respect, and not fear, from Americas viewing audiences. And one day someone in Hollywood will finally have the inspiration to cast a prominent Italian American actor in the role of President of the United States. Now wouldn't that be interesting and very satisfying to a generation of hard working Italian Americans who has been waiting so long for their proper recognition.

By cookie curci

## Exploring the History and Meanings of Italian Surnames

Delving into the research of surnames, also known as last names or family names, is an exciting way to learn more about your family history. *When researching Italian surnames, you will quickly find that each family name in Italy was formed for a particular purpose.* Italy has always been known for its lively and extraordinary land and people, and Italian names exhibit these same qualities.

In the age of ancient Rome, individuals were named in three parts. These parts included a basic first name, a name in which a person's family was identified, and also a unique name that described that individual. This three part name was common throughout Italian history until the medieval days, when the latter two names were dropped and people were known only by one name. This tradition of only giving one name began to cause confusion among citizens, and slowly Italians began adding a second distinguishing label to their names. *By the 15th century, most Italians identified themselves by their individual name as well as a surname.* Surnames in Italy very commonly identified a person by their family or their father. These types of surnames are known as patronymics. Italian surnames that include a prefix of "di" or "da" often mean "son of." For example, "di Francesco" would be mean "son of Francesco." The suffix "-ucci" also means "descendant of."

Italian surnames can also identify where an individual is from. Some of these surnames simply identify a person with local geography, such as "di Montagna" for "of the mountain." Individuals or families that migrated often took on a surname that described their region of origin, such as "Milani" or "Romano" if they were from Milan or Rome.

Occupations were also commonly used to form surnames. A person could carry the name of the occupation, such as "Zappa" for farmer, but it was also common for Italians to choose a surname that described an animal or object associated with their occupation.

Of all Italian surnames, the most entertaining and unusual names can be found from the family names formed from nicknames. These could virtually describe any detail about an individual, from their hair color to the appearance of their teeth to their height., such as using the name "Basso," which means short. Some of these names even went as far as to describe a person's eating habits!

Whatever your genealogy, if an Italian surname is part of your ancestral past, it will no doubt provide you with many interesting details as to where your family originated from and what they were like.

By Elizabeth Walling

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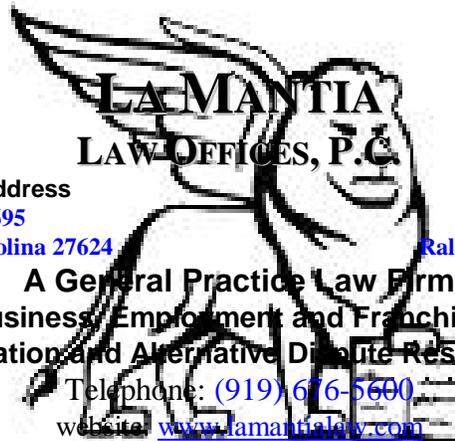
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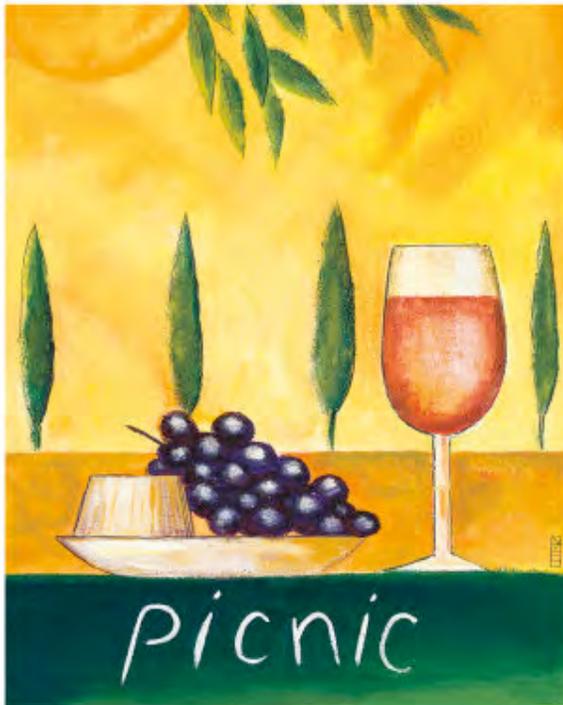
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10/2008



# Annual FAMILY PICNIC & Membership Outreach



**DATE:** SUNDAY, June 7, 2009  
**TIME:** 1:00 PM to ??  
**WHERE:** Knights of Columbus  
1820 New Hope Rd, Raleigh  
**PICNIC** \$5.00 ea. (members & family)  
**DONATION:** \$10.00 Non-Members \*  
Children under 5 Free

*\*Non-members who join TSOI at the picnic  
will be refunded the \$10 Picnic Donation.*

**TICKETS:** [trianglesonsofitaly.org](http://trianglesonsofitaly.org)  
**RSVP BY:** June 1, 2009

**BRING YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS  
& ENJOY FUN ACTIVITIES...**

**Bocce Ball, Left Right Center, 50/50 Raffles, Door Prizes,  
Fishing (bring your equipment), and who know what else!**

**Triangle Sons of Italy will provide sausage & peppers,  
hamburgers, hotdogs and trimmings, sodas and water.**

**Beer or wine can be purchased from the Knights.**

**Please bring a salad, vegetable dish or dessert to serve 10.**

**ON A PERSONAL NOTE:**



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:**

Vincent and Ann Marie Doria  
Frank and Molly Ferraro  
Jim and Paula Frederici  
Ron and June Little  
Thomas and Maria Spampinato  
Bob and Kathleen Vetrano



**BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:**

**MEMBERS**

John Christofaro  
John Colangelo  
Victor Cononi  
Vince Conzola  
Roy Cordato  
Joe Larotonda  
Bruno Pagnani  
Andy Porcelli  
Bill Swinehart-DeFranzi

**SIGNIFICANT OTHERS**

Caroline Savino  
Rita Venezia

**CONDOLENCES:**

**Bob Petrolino's** sister-in-law, Roberta, has passed away in Mays Landing, NJ. Bob's brother died in 2004



**EDITOR:**

Is something newsworthy?  
Let us know, send it to

**Neal Caliendo:** [nealcali@yahoo.com](mailto:nealcali@yahoo.com)

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

**Neal Caliendo:** [nealcali@yahoo.com](mailto:nealcali@yahoo.com)  
(919)846-2747

and/or

**Bob Vetrano:** [rvetrano@nc.rr.com](mailto:rvetrano@nc.rr.com)  
(919)848-1846

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

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

**June 17th (Wednesday), 6:30 PM - GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** Knights of Columbus, New Hope and Columbus Roads, Raleigh.